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TOM LONGBOAT:
CANADA'S OUTSTANDING INDIAN ATHLETE

by

WILTON LITTLECHILD (C)

A THESIS

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF

MASTER OF ARTS

in

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

FALL, 1975

Longboat winning one of many races during his amateur and professional running career. (Photo courtesy Public Archives, Canada)

TOM LONGBOAT
(1887-1949)
(Photo courtesy Public Archives, Canada)

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

The undersigned certify that they have read, and recommend to the Faculty of Graduate Studies for acceptance, a thesis entitled "TOM LONGBOAT: CANADA'S OUTSTANDING INDIAN ATHLETE", submitted by WILTON LITTLECHILD in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts.

.....
Supervisor

.....

.....

Date .....October 7, 1975.....

ABSTRACT

The primary purpose of this study was to collect into one volume reported records and achievements of Canada's fastest distance runner in the world during the first decade of the twentieth century. It was hoped that such a biographical presentation would illustrate the contribution Tom Longboat made to Canadian sports history and development. The study also illustrates an era in sports history when the track athlete could become a professional runner.

The study was divided chronologically into five major time periods which were determined as special highlights in the two careers of Tom Longboat. The suspensions and management troubles that led to international controversies are referred to, throughout the story, in both his amateur and professional running days.

There are not too many Indian people who gain fame in the sports world, however, Tom Longboat is one who should be noted, not for being the first famous runner to test his speed against "the thundering hoofs of a race horse", to beat one over a 12 mile course; not as the track idol who became a beggar or drunken bum; but for the real contribution he made to the sports world as an outstanding athlete.

It is impossible for the present generation to fully realize the strength of Longboat's appeal to the sports public. But the young Indian athlete of today should be given the opportunity to read about some of his achievements. He deserved a higher recognition than he was given by the Canadian public.

PREFACE

A very significant occurrence in 1967 initiated research into the athletic career of one of Canada's Hall of Fame members, Tom Longboat. Having won the Longboat Trophy that year, the writer in honor of this recognition began a survey into the achievements of this very famous Indian athlete. This thesis was done with great interest in efforts to answer the question: Who was Tom Longboat?

As an Indian athlete it is embarrassing to not know who Longboat was or what he has done in Canadian sports history. The immediate result of any research is to notice that there is a large amount of information available on isolated events of Longboat's running days. As other nations honour their athletic heros it was felt Tom Longboat's story ought to be chronologically documented into one volume. Other Indian people should read his achievements and moreso young Indian athletes aspiring for recognition in athletic performance. 'Longboat's contribution as a Canadian athlete is one of unmatched excellence, certainly it's a model upon which other Indian athletes of today can follow especially in setting goals.

The primary purpose of the thesis then is to illustrate by chronology the athletic career of Tom Longboat. It is hoped the consequence will be added recognition by Indian people, especially athletes for this phenomenal Indian. Truly he was a person of whom North American Indian people can be very proud.

The study is by no means exhaustive, nor is it claimed to be, because there are many aspects to Longboat's life untouched. He must have been a very strong person to survive as he did in the era of sports

history when the Indian athletic competitor was more scarce than presently. In a different aspect, this story reflects somewhat on two important issues to which comment is restricted but could perhaps be for another study. Firstly, some social concerns are inferred throughout. Was Longboat "used" by non-Indian managers purely for financial gains? If so, is it merely illustration of past exploitation of Indians by white people? Secondly, it has often been documented that the Indian lifestyle is one of sharing or a culture that emphasizes co-operation rather than competition. If so, then should Indian people be expected to succeed in a very highly competitive way of life as athletics or white society? There is much to be said about both issues however it was felt by the writer that the stature of Longboat does not warrant use of his career as a tool for severe social criticism.

It is often said that there are many natural Indian athletes but they will only go so far in competition, then fade. Why? No attempt is made to answer this query because it too may be for another separate study. It is only hoped that this small documentation will encourage other Indian people to set higher goals and try to achieve them as the study has done for the writer. It is also hoped it is a small contribution to help give Longboat more recognition because the research compiles a successful contribution of one Indian athlete to Canada's sports history. Although isolated, it proves an "Indian can win."

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To the members of the Advisory Committee, especially Dr. R. G. Glassford, I express my gratitude for their assistance.

Appreciation is also extended to all the Indian athletes of INSPOL (Indian Sports Olympics) who unknowingly encouraged me to continue research and complete my study. It is their contribution which will be realized in the future.

Gratitude is also extended to Darlene Karran and Nancy Hutton for their typing.

To my immediate family, I extend my lifelong admiration and love for helping me achieve a goal. Without Helen and little Teddi's quiet and willing sacrifice of many hours this study would not be complete.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

When one reads sports history, it becomes quickly clear that there is a lack of information on Indian athletes and Indian sports participation, despite the fact that young men of native birth dominated lacrosse competitions throughout the decades prior to Confederation and even for a substantial period following 1867. To an extent, the lack of available chronicles on Indian athletes might be construed as indicative of a dearth of outstanding sportsmen of Indian extraction. On reflection, however, such a premise must be quickly set aside. The names of such great Indian athletes as Jim Thorpe (voted America's greatest athlete of the first half century of the 1900's), Allie Reynolds (a baseball pitcher for the New York Yankees and until 1972 co-holder of the record for most World Series victories), Billy Mills (an Olympic gold medal winner in the 10,000 meter run in 1964), and Cab Renick (a former All American basketball player and Olympic gold medal winner in basketball during the 1948 Olympic Games) - - carry sufficient magic to stir the memories of many Americans and Canadians. What seems to be required is the compilation of a series of histories of great Indian athletes such that young, aspiring Indians might have heroes or models with whom they can identify.

This is a history of one such great Canadian Indian athlete. His name during the brief span of his athletic career became a household word, but his contribution to the early development of sport in Canada failed to gain the recognition that many today believe he deserved.

The man was Tom Longboat, an Onondaga Indian, who was known among his people as Cog-Wa-Gee.

Longboat was born June 4, 1887 on the Ohsweeken Reservation of the Six Nations near the Ontario city of Brantford.[1] Little can be determined about Longboat's family or his upbringing on the Ohsweeken Reservation, but the athletically-related aspect of the Longboat story is perhaps best introduced with the following description of a mother's account of her son's first faltering steps towards greatness.

> Tommy practiced running for two years on the Reservation. He run every morning. He run every night. He run down to the long house (the Tribal Council House) and get beaten. He came back and run some more. Soon he run five miles easy in twenty-three and a half minutes. Next time we have five mile race here, Tommy win by nearly quarter of mile.[2]

The five-mile race to which Mrs. Longboat referred was the feature event of the May 24th Caledonia Fair, then an annual event of the Brantford area and was in the fields adjacent to the Ohsweeken Reservation. Thus began the athletic career of the Indian who became undisputed champion long-distance runner of the world in a little more than two years after his name was first heard outside the Six Nations Reserve.

To an extent Longboat's early career as a distance runner was directed and shaped by another Indian athlete, Bill Davis. Davis was apparently a shrewd judge of distance runners; he recognized the unheralded potential of the long, slender Indian lad. After a period of coaching, Davis entered Longboat in the 1906 "Around-the-Bay" race, a gruelling nineteen mile marathon sponsored by the Hamilton Herald.[3]

As a consequence of this race, the name of Thomas Longboat was entered into the annals of Canadian sport history. The account of this marathon run is cited in its entirety since it provides the basic data on Longboat's naivity as a distance runner.

> The Herald's Annual Thanksgiving Day Marathon Race was run off yesterday under good weather and road conditions. The course was 19 miles and 168 yards around Hamilton Bay to Burlington and return, the starting and finishing points being at the Herald office. The finish was as follows:
>
> 1. Thomas Longboat - Six Nations Indians - Caledonia, 1 hour, 49 minutes, 25 seconds,
>
> 2. John D. Marsh (Telegram AAC) Winnipeg, Time 1.52.03
>
> 3. Wm. LeBarre (St. Patrick's AC) Hamilton, Time 1.53.30
>
> Thomas Longboat, an Indian, of the Onondaga Tribe, who comes from the reserve near Caledonia, won making the distance 19 miles 168 yards in 1.49.25 or 42 seconds slower than the record made by Sammy Mellor, Yonkers, N.Y. in 1904. The winner is only 19 years old and had never taken part in a long race before. He was almost entirely overlooked and his chances were considered so poor that he was quoted at 100 to 1.
>
> Longboat obtained the lead early in the race, and with Marsh dogging his steps, sometimes being slightly in the lead, finished strong. If it had not been for a run away accident near the cemetary, he might have broken the record.[4]

The "accident" referred to apparently occurred near the end of the race, when Longboat took a wrong turn on the course and ran an additional seventy or more yards before someone pointed out his error and he returned to the official course.[5]

It is difficult to imagine how Longboat might have felt that day of his first major race, but Pennington has captured for us some-

thing of Longboat's appearance and performance on that cool October day.

His statistics were recorded at the time: height 5'10½", weight 142 pounds. At the age of nineteen, gangling, unsure of himself, he cut a pathetic picture in a pair of bathing trunks with cheap sneakers on his feet, and hair that looked as if it had been hacked off with a tomahawk.

At the lineup outside the newspaper office, the odds-on favorite was a confident, experienced Englishman, John Marsh, who had several English native records to his credit before emigrating to Winnipeg. Longboat had behind him only a few weeks of semi-skilled coaching, and several years chasing the livestock on his reservation.

During the first half mile, there was laughter at Longboat's ungainly style. He no more knew how to hold his arms than untrained singers know what to do with their hands. The angle was quite impossible and there was a curious kicking sideways of his feet as if he had stepped in something foul.

Marsh was the pacemaker in the early part of the race, but right behind him was Longboat, who occasionally shot to the front just to test his speed. They altered as pacemakers until the Stone Road Junction was reached. At this point Longboat apparently decided the time had come for him to assert his ability. He left Marsh as if he had been standing 6 and finished the distance in the rather remarkable time of 1.49.25, almost three minutes ahead of the more experienced Marsh.

Fresh from his victory in the Hamilton Round-the-Bay race, Longboat journeyed north and east to Toronto where the fifteen mile John J. Ward Marathon race was to be run on October 27. The following

description establishes some of the unique rules of the race.

> The course is seven and one half miles out to the rifle ranges and return. No attendants will be allowed to interfere with runners until the Humber Bridge is passed; nor on the way back from the Bridge to the finish. No pacemaking will be allowed and any runner having outside pacing will be disqualified.[7]

Precisely what was allowed after the runners passed the Humber Bridge could not be established. But one might surmise that some form of refreshment may have been available to the runners at this junction since the practice of drinking small amounts of water and eating small portions of candy was sometimes followed by marathoners. The outcome of the race did much to establish the credibility of Longboat as a great runner.

None of the other competitors was in his class. He ran the fifteen miles in an hour and 31 minutes, and he was three minutes ahead of Goldsboro, with LeBarre of Hamilton third[8] .... His second performance was more meritorious than the one at Hamilton for, though the distance was 4 miles less, the weather and the roads were treacherous. Furthermore, he had 61 men to beat on that day, and they included the winners of the various road races that were held on Thanksgiving Day. The result confirmed the Hamilton race outcome as first and third men had the same position in both races.[9]

As a consequence of this second major victory inside the space of two weeks Longboat was prematurely acclaimed by the press as "...the best distance runner in Canada and probably the best in the world..."[10] Despite these and later aggrandisements Longboat never considered himself an extraordinary runner and frequently stated that there were other young

Indian men who could run as well or better than he.[11] Despite, or perhaps because of, his modesty, however, this nineteen year old youth was cordially received by the Chiefs of his tribe who invited him to sit on the dias with the officials within their circle. One of their number, in honoring Longboat, perhaps foreshadowed the one sad and unproven event which was to haunt this athlete for the rest of his life, the charge of using drugs prior to the marathon run of the 1908 Olympic Games. "The Almighty has given you strong limbs and good speed. He always watches you as you fly along and you should never do anything dishonest or wrong in any race in the sight of the Almighty."[12]

Thus within the space of a few short months, the name of Tom Longboat emerged from the obscurity of the Ohsweeken Reservation to a place of fame among the great runners of North America.

From the date of Longboat's first major victory (October 18, 1906) and for the following six years, Longboat was to command more sports headlines and front page articles than any other Canadian athlete of that period. He was a simple man, naive to the ways of the political intrique surrounding the amateur-professional dichotomy -- a situation that was later to cause him personal and public distress.[13] He disdained running spikes and at least during the early stages of his career ran in rubber-soled canvas shoes. No early evidence was found to indicate that Longboat knew anything about a regular training program designed to bring an athlete to a peak of performance at a pre-destined time so as to maximize his opportunities of winning a distance race of a given length. Indeed, Longboat's versatility as a runner is attested to by the fact that he ran to victories in his first four races over distances of 19 miles, 15 miles, 10 miles and five miles respectively. He was, apparently,

gifted with "...a long slow stride that was deceiving in its speed and seemed to carry him over the ground with the least possible exertion."[14] It was a stride that was to carry Longboat to fame and to heartbreak.

FOOTNOTES

1. Encyclopedia Canadiana, Grolier of Canada Ltd., Toronto: 1968 Vol. b, p.199. There are varying reports as to place and date of birth in the Indian Affairs Branch files in Ottawa and the Canada Sports Hall of Fame file in Toronto. The writer feels the Encyclopedia Canadiana reference is correct in view of the age reported at death.

2. Pennington, Bob, The Telegram, Toronto: January 26, 1965.

3. Ibid.

4. The Brantford Courier, Brantford: October 19, 1906.

5. Cronin, Fergus, "The Rise and Fall of Tom Longboat", MacLeans Magazine. Vol. 69 (February 4, 1956) p.20.

6. Pennington, Ibid, January 25, 1965.

7. The Brantford Courier, October 27, 1906.

8. Ibid, October 29, 1906.

9. Ibid.

10. Ibid.

11. Ibid, April 25, 1907.

12. Ibid, November 7, 1907.

13. Ibid, January 2, 1907.

14. Cronin, Op Cit., p.37.

CHAPTER II

THE RISE TO FAME

While the Hamilton Herald Road Race and the John J. Ward Marathon Race held near Toronto established Tom Longboat as a capable young distance runner, he was little known beyond the confines of the two cities in which his early victories were won. Within six months, however, Longboat entered the ranks of North America's great athletes. On December 25, 1906, Longboat entered the Hamilton Christmas Race which was, during that time period, an annual event run over a ten mile course. The record time of 57 minutes 32 seconds had been established in 1904 by John Sims. But on this particular day Longboat's greatest competition came from a competitor named Cummings, who matched strides with him until the last mile of the race at which point the swift Indian youngster burst to the front to complete the ten miles in a record time of 54 minutes and 50 seconds, a full 50 seconds ahead of Cummings.[1] Longboat's record time for the ten mile distance is all the more amazing when one considers the fact that both he and Cummings were briefly trapped when "...A rig beside which they were running capsized through slipping on some ice and fell on the runners."[2] Miraculously neither runner was injured although both lost precious seconds in the competition.

A week later Longboat travelled to Toronto in order to enter the Dufferin Park Exhibition Run which was set out over a distance of five miles. Longboat

...covered five miles in 27 minutes and 23 seconds...

> The weather was cold and the track was in bad condition, very wet and slippery, but Longboat disdained spikes and ran in rubber soled shoes ...The Indian made no great effort and could have surpassed that time under the very unfavorable conditions...The best time on record for five miles is 24.33 3/4 made by the English runner Alfred Shrubb on a regular running path and in fine weather.[3]

To conjecture as to what Longboat's time might have been under favorable conditions can serve no useful purpose. But eyewitnesses of the event appeared to believe he could have improved upon his time under more favorable circumstances. The implied comparison of Longboat's time with that of the English runner, Alfred Shrubb, is an interesting one. It could not be determined whether Shrubb's record time of 24:33.75 for the five-mile distance was the current world record established on an official track, or whether it was the Canadian or Ontario record. The time alluded to in the Brantford Courier apparently did not refer to the Dufferin Park Exhibition Run since the mention of a "regular running path" was made and no regular track was used for the Dufferin Park race.

While Longboat's reputation as a distance runner was being established in Canada, that of George H. Bonhag had already been established in the United States, and as a consequence it was only a matter of time before the two runners met in a competition. In point of fact it was quickly arranged by the Irish Amateur Athletic Club of Buffalo, New York -- Bonhag's home club.

> It is the first time in the history of athletics in this city that an international race has been arranged to be decided at an indoor meet by the two unquestioned champions of their respective countries.[4]

It was still a moot point as to whether Longboat was the "unquestioned" champion of Canada. Aside from that, several significant points should be made relative to the race itself. First, Longboat had proven himself as a capable runner over distances ranging from five to nineteen miles, but his ability to handle the middle distances was still doubtful. Despite this, Longboat agreed to race a distance of three miles, the ideal distance for Bonhag who held the indoor record of a time of 14:44.6 which he had established on November 24, 1906. Second, all of Longboat's previous races had been held outdoors and he was not familiar with the indoor track. Notwithstanding, the race was held on February 9, 1907 in the 74th Regiment Armoury, Buffalo, New York. Every available seat was occupied and a brilliant race resulted. Bonhag nipped Longboat at the tape by some three feet and in so doing established a new indoor record of 14:43.4 bettering his own record by 1.2 seconds.[5] Thus was entered Longboat's first defeat on the record books, despite an outstanding athletic performance.

It became apparent to members of the press that Longboat was disenchanted with the manner in which his career had been managed and he apparently approached Willie Sherring, a Canadian who had won the marathon in the 1906 Olympic Games, with a request to act as his trainer.[6] Longboat had claimed that with a man who understood long distance running behind him as a trainer, he would have won against Bonhag. While Longboat was sent to the starting line with a pair of canvas boots with rubber soles on, by the end of the race his feet were almost scalded. Bonhag on the other hand had a pair of low shoes with only a rubber half sole and his feet were comfortable all the time.[7] The above mentioned tactical advice coupled with the decision to face

Bonhag over the latter's best distance and on an unfamiliar indoor surface indicated poor judgment. The want of an experienced manager was clearly shown. Sherring, with his experience as a long distance runner, would have perhaps been an ideal trainer for Longboat. However, it is not recorded that he accepted. He did state to Longboat's father that

> ...He would think the matter over on the condition that Longboat would agree to train as directed and not to listen to half a dozen managers as he has been doing.[8]

This was only the beginning of management controversies which overshadowed Longboat's later achievements.

1907 was a year in which Longboat emerged as a world class runner. Although it had highlights, it was also a year in which much controversy developed. Longboat's amateur status was repeatedly questioned. Nevertheless, Longboat continued to run and break records. Because of his status controversy, Tom Longboat joined the West End YMCA of Toronto to regain bona fide standing with the C.A.A.U.

> Tom Longboat quickly established a new record for the West End YMCA two and a half mile Harriers team race before one thousand spectators who were lined along Dovercourt Road. Despite the muddy roads and the chilly air, the race was a good one and the time fast. Longboat finished first easily in 12 minutes and 46 seconds lowering the record by 21 seconds. The next man to finish was Jack Tait who had held the record of 13:07 for the past two seasons.[9]

Prior to the Dovercourt record run, a heated exchange occurred between Harry Rosenthal, then manager of Longboat, and the Amateur Athletic Union, the Canadian Amateur Athletic Union and the New York Athletic Club over Longboat's status as an amateur athlete. Subse-

quently, the Toronto Star reported that Longboat had acquired a new trainer, Fred Loft, upon C.A.A.U.'s approval.

> They have every confidence in the new man. He is Fred Loft, a man of the same blood as the Onondaga distance runner. Loft takes charge of Longboat at the request of Longboat himself. He feels that he is in need of good advice and counsel.
>
> Loft will look after the runner in a general way when he is outside the YMCA. 'Mr. Loft is a man who will take better care of Longboat than he has ever had before' said J. S. Merrick of the C.A.A.U.
>
> 'I do not think that he needs anything like the looking after that H. Rosenthal says he does and here is one thing certain, he will not be chased around the country as a betting proposition.'[10]

Within the brief span of six months Tom Longboat's reputation and future already depended on his performance at the supreme test, the Boston Marathon. Whether he possessed the marvelous speed and endurance as a runner attributed to him was to be demonstrated in the big event. At nineteen, straight from the reservation, Longboat found Toronto more than a little terrifying. But the Y's clean living and dedicated approach to sport impressed him at first, and he was told he would be entered for the classic Boston Marathon.[11]

FOOTNOTES

1. The Brantford Courier, Brantford: December 26, 1906.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid., January 2, 1907.
4. Ibid., February 11, 1907.
5. Ibid., February 12, 1907.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid., February 11, 1907.
8. Ibid.
9. Pennington, Op. Cit., January 27, 1965.
10. The Brantford Courier, Brantford: March 20, 1907.
11. Pennington, Loc. Cit., January 27, 1965.

CHAPTER III

THE BOSTON MARATHON

The Boston Marathon, an annual event since 1897 and the only one of the old running classics still held today, is the supreme test for marathon runners. After his quick rise to fame in eastern Canada and the United States, Tom Longboat was yet to face more challenges as to his eligibility to run as an amateur athlete before the 1907 Marathon run. He had up to this point proven himself as a runner amid the management disputes and status controversies. It is unlikely that such conflicts did not affect his performance. Nevertheless his marathon record does not bear this out.

Members of the West End YMCA of Toronto had convinced Longboat to join their ranks and represent them in the Boston Marathon.

> At the meeting of the governing committee of the YMCA Athletic League, the Indian distance runner was turned over to the League with the endorsement of the Registration Committee of the C.A.A.U. The YMCA League is an affiliated League with the C.A.A.U. and the Indian is therefore in good standing again and in hands where his standing is not likely to be endangered by the circus methods with which he was formerly and unwillingly associated. He had hitherto been unattached but is now registered with the YMCA.[1]

Interests quickly built around the Indian as the time approached the running of the Marathon. Preparatory to the running of this great race and under the new colors of the West End YMCA Longboat was to go after the five mile record in the Armories at Toronto. He also expressed his intention of going after the record of the Boston Marathon six days later. The Marathon record was set by Jack Caffrey of

Hamilton in 1901. Caffrey covered the twenty-five miles in 2:29.23 3/5.[2] The nearest competitor to that time was some eight minutes slower.

Although there is no record of his run at the Toronto Armories, the Toronto News reported that "immediately after the five mile run against time at the Military Games, the Indian will strike for Boston to put in a week there getting acquainted with the Marathon."[3]

The great question among followers and competitors was whether Longboat could lower Caffrey's record. William LeBarre, the Hamilton distance runner expressed the fact that he feared only one man in the race -- the Indian Wonder.[4] Bennett, another serious contender stated: "I am going to hang on to that Indian just as long as I can."[5]

The administration, on the other hand, was more concerned about the red tape, and one week prior to the Boston Marathon amid great preparations to receive the Redman in Boston, the American Union declared itself. J. J. Dixon, Secretary sent two telegrams to Secretary Crow of Toronto. The first asked about Longboat's amateur standing, and the second stated that the Indian could not compete in the United States until the Registration Committee there granted him permission. His former permit had been cancelled.

Mr. Crow telegraphed and wrote stating that Longboat's standing was "okay" and if he was kept out of the Boston race, it would be laid to spite. J. F. Fahey of the Boston Marathon also took a hand in the wiring.[6]

The Longboat prohibition was not raised until the Saturday before the Marathon by the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States. Secretary Dixon, after reading Secretary Crow's explanation of the C.A.A.U. position wired: "Longboat is eligible to run at Boston pending

investigation and decision by our Registration Committee. He runs under protest..."[7]

That was satisfactory to Mr. C. H. Ashley (Physical Instructor) of the West End YMCA who was certain that there was nothing against the Indian's amateur status, and so he took the Indian down to Boston.[8]

As he boarded the train for Boston, the weather reports were gloomy. Snow and ice made it doubtful if the race would be run, let alone finished. There were a hundred and twenty-six starters on that bleak day in 1907; snow alternated with rain to make the race a slush-filled twenty-five mile torture. Most of it was to be run uphill.[9]

The reports that follow were articles covering what may have been the Bronze Mercury's finest race. Certainly for 1907, it had to be the highlight in Canadian sports history. For the purpose of maintaining the original story as it appeared across the country the articles are quoted in their entirety.

BRANT INDIAN WINS THE MARATHON RACE.

HE BROKE THE RECORD BY FIVE MINUTES.

"Boston, April 19 - The Eleventh Annual Marathon Race of 25 miles from Ashland to Boston, which is to be started at noon today in point of number of contestants will be the greatest in the history of the event.

The official entry list contains names of 126 long distance runners from all sections of New England while New York State and City and the Dominion of Canada are represented. Athens, Greece, is represented by Staveros Lalas.

It was expected that the record of 2 hours, 29 minutes, 23 3/5 seconds made by J. J. Caffrey of Hamilton, Ontario, in 1901 would not be equalled today on account of poor weather conditions. The day was chilly and the roads were covered with dust.

> The chief interest is in Longboat, the Indian runner from Ontario. Longboat is the favorite but it is thought that the dust may affect his running as he is suffering from a slight infection of the throat.
>
> Among other notable contestants are Fred Lore, Mohawk, A.C., New York, all former winners of this event; T. J. Hicks of Cambridge, winner of the St. Louis Marathon; Robert Fowler of Cambridge who has won two marathons (not local) and represented America at Athens last year; W. S. Frank of New York and H. O. Kerr and Charles E. Petch, Toronto, Ontario.
>
> Longboat has a sore leg owing to a fall while training but his trainer expects him to limber up after he has started."[10]

A good start was witnessed by a large crowd on the 19th day of April as the runners got away at noon sharp. The first mile was covered by eight to ten of the leaders in four minutes plus. The early leader was Frederick L. Brennin of Jamaica Plain while Edward P. Cara of the Xavier A.A., Brooklyn, was second. The first five miles ended two minutes behind the record. Fred Lore of the Mohawk AC and the 1905 winner had taken the lead passing at 12:22. Fifty yards behind him were W. G. Frank of New York, LeBarre of Hamilton, Ontario, Carr of New York, Petch of Toronto, and Longboat.[11]

The race continued and Longboat's feat under such weather conditions was to be touted as one establishing him as "the fastest runner who has ever lived."[12] The actual account from Boston was as follows:

> "LONGBOAT'S TIME KNOCKED ALL WORLD RECORDS TO SMITHEREENS.
>
> Boston, Mass. April 20 - Two hundred thousand spectators who fringed and in places fairly jammed the 25 mile course leaving but a narrow lane for the runners saw Thomas Longboat of the Six Nations Reserve, Brant,

wearing the colors of the West End YMCA win the Marathon Race of the Boston Athletic Association here yesterday afternoon.

Longboat's defeat of his field of upwards of 100 starters, creditable as it was, was as nothing compared to the phenomenal, though official time of which he covered the hilly course. His time was 2 hours, 24 minutes and 20 4/5 seconds or more than five minutes better than the record made by J. J. Caffrey, another Canadian runner, six years ago.

Never before has any runner either amateur or professional, in this country or abroad, on the road or on the under path ever approached the figures set up by Longboat yesterday afternoon.

His work demonstrated beyond all question that he is the greatest distance runner that the world has ever seen.

Although it was a little embarrassing to loyal Americans to see their star long distance runners spread eagled by a Canadian, Longboat's victory was nonetheless popular, and today his name is upon everybody's lips nor will the public soon forget the marvelous race that he ran.

The day was far from ideal for a distance run and much less favorable for record breaking performance.

The mercury hung around the 40 degrees notch most of the day and after the men had been out ten miles a cold rain began falling and for the rest of the time the thinly clad athletes ran out in the drizzling rain and sleet.

For the first ten miles of the race Longboat was content to let others set the pace. But the Indian was always a favorite and throughout the course a tremendous crowd followed in his wake in autos and on wheels and at times sadly interfered with his running.

Longboat for the first ten miles was seventh and at one time he was at least a third of a mile behind the bunch. Then he began overhauling the leaders and for the last ten miles it was only a question of how much he would win by.

Petch of Toronto kept with Longboat for the first part of the course but the clip proved too fast. Petch did

finely nevertheless and finished in sixth place.

Never before in the annals of running has Longboat's performance been approached. He knocked to smithereens all records for all courses that have ever been made.

The most impressive part of the victory was his freshness at the end of the race. As nearly as could be estimated he ran the 25th mile the fastest of the race. Some watchers caught it in five minutes but that is not official.

Cheer after cheer rent the air as he swept past the finish line and was escorted to the club house.

Examination by the club physician showed his condition to be excellent. A half hour later, before many of the other starters had reached the finish line, Longboat was all dressed and had stepped into a carriage for his hotel where he proceeded to dispose of a dinner of blue points tenderloin steak, chicken broth and numerous other viands.

He appeared more concerned about his dinner than anything in connection with the race.

But before Longboat left the club house he was taken to the directors room where he found the first prize waiting for him. His entry had not been protested and he had won his race fairly and honestly. Governor Guild handed him the prize, a magnificent bronze statue of Mercury and the Indian went through the formality of a reception...[13]

Longboat acquired a new press name for this phenomenal feat: "The Bronze Mercury". The Mayor and citizens of Toronto were to specially congratulate him on his magnificent victory. A telegram to that effect was sent to Longboat from Toronto, where preparations began on a big civic reception.

Longboat, although pleased to win, in his enthusiasm declared that he had run his last race. However this was not taken seriously especially by Dr. Ashley who remarked "Oh, I guess you will Tom", "Well perhaps", said Tom.[14]

The Boston article continued on his running description as follows:

> Thomas Longboat is a full blooded Indian of the Onondaga Tribe and hails from Caledonia on the Six Nations Reserve.
>
> Twenty years old, 5 foot 11 inches in height and weighing 145, Longboat bears all the noted characteristics of the Indian race. With the typical square jaw and loose knit frame the Redskin reminds one of the stories of Indians in the school books.
>
> While in action the Indian is anything but a pretty runner with his rolling shoulders and long ground covering strides.[15]

The Indian had passed the test and by this physical feat his name was to become a household word in North America. Longboat's tragedy, however, was that he later found himself unable to accept the influence of good white men, and was only happy among those who supported the many races that he was to win. In winning the Boston Marathon he was claimed by many as "their boy" but what would have happened had he lost? Would he have merely been cast aside as another useless Indian?

Many accolades were given to Longboat, doubtless with good intentions, unfortunately some were to later be used against him as evidence for more attacks as to his eligibility. Somewhat typical of these was a Longboat Fund established in Toronto by Mayor Coatsworth. The Mayor was receiving subscriptions towards a $1,500 educational fund. It was hoped the popular subscription would raise $1,000 to supplement a $500 civic grant.[16] This fund was later to be viewed with skepticism by those who controlled amateur athletics in Canada.

A major reception and welcome was held in Toronto for the runner's return to the train station. The runner's new popularity was

evident as the train was boarded by a great crowd of West End enthusiasts at the Parkdale station. The real welcome, however, was when the train pulled in at the Union Station.

> There were thousands of people blocking the streets around the station and the appearance of the runners was the signal for great outbursts of cheering. The procession moved off in the order previously arranged and the torch bearers being immediately in front and behind the automobile containing the runners.
>
> The streets along the route were also lined with spectators and it was with a series of ovations until the City Hall was reached.[17]

The civic reception in its symbolic style was one not soon to be forgotten by Longboat. Unfortunately, it was forgotten by the general public. Fame was transitory as Longboat was to find out but at that particular moment he was a great civic hero, a man to be recognized.

> The Marathon runners entered the City Hall by the James St. entrance and a few minutes after the crowd swarmed into the Civic Building and filled almost every conceivable space on the first two floors and the main stairway.
>
> The runners were greeted by the Mayor in his office after which they were escorted to the first landing by the main stairway. Longboat by the Mayor and Petch by Controller Ward. The winner of the Marathon Race was distinguished by a flag thrown over his shoulders and his companion wore a white sweater and carried a miniature flag.
>
> The City's address to Mr. Thomas Longboat was read by the Mayor. It expressed pleasure at his victory and congratulated him on becoming the champion long distance runner of America.
>
> He was asked to accept a gold medal from the City of Toronto and he was informed that the City had also made a grant of $500 to a fund for his education.
>
> Pinned Medals On. His worship pinned the medal on

> Longboat and then pinned a medal on Petch. He announced that the City had also provided a medal for Kerr the 18th man in the race, but he was not on hand to receive it.
>
> The champion returned thanks in a modest way and in a voice so low that only a few heard him. He said 'Mr. Mayor, I thank you kindly for the splendid reception, for the medal and city grant and I shall try to behave so as to prove myself worthy of the City's kindness.'
>
> Mr. Petch said he had done his best to make the race first and second for Toronto.
>
> The Mayor read a communication from Principal Hagarty of Harbord Collegiate stating that the pupils in that school would contribute handsomely to the Longboat fund.
>
> The cheers for the two runners and the Mayor wound up the proceedings.[18]

A few days after the great Boston Marathon victory, Tom Longboat was overwhelmed with requests to run or participate in athletic events. A Woodstock delegation interviewed Longboat and his manager, C. H. Ashley of the West End YMCA shortly after, stating:

> We are holding a big athletic meet at Woodstock on Victoria Day and will hang up a $100 watch or a diamond ring for a 10 mile race if Longboat will enter.[19]

Longboat, who had fourteen or fifteen prior offers, indicated he did not want to run but instead desired to return to Caledonia for Victoria Day.

> On Victoria Day, I am going to Caledonia to see a five mile race for the Indians there. I want to see them run...
>
> 'I am not champion of the Six Nations you know,' said Tom, 'they have faster men that I am there, but they have not the sand in them to run a long

race. When they see me start they quit. If they wouldn't quit they would beat me.'

I am going out there to pick out an Indian runner.

What are you going to do with him?

I don't know -- maybe send him to Boston.[20]

In spite of his recognition of Six Nations runners, he was now also to be known as "the fastest distance man the world has ever seen".[21] Longboat was greeted with less exuberance but perhaps with equal or greater pride upon his first return visit to the reserve since the Marathon. "The twenty year old Indian greeted the various members of his family in stoical Indian fashion and they received him in the same way. In fact from all outward appearances, he might only have returned from a trip to Brantford instead of just establishing himself as the greatest of all runners."[22]

So continued the controversial career, from his initial defeat by Bonhag, Longboat encountered management problems, perhaps due to his resistance to disciplined training. But, in spite of the disrupting events that occurred in 1907, the Boston Marathon record of 2 hours 24 minutes and 24 seconds was one that stood for four years. It was broken only after the course was made easier with less hills. It is of interest to note the times of the Boston Marathon since 1907. Tom Longboat's time has only been bettered 5 times by 3 different runners in the succeeding 50 years.[23]

FOOTNOTES

1. The Brantford Courier, Brantford: March 30, 1907.
2. Ibid., March 28, 1907.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid., April 6, 1907.
5. Ibid., April 12, 1907.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid., April 16, 1907.
8. Ibid.
9. Pennington, Bob, The Telegram, Toronto: January 26, 1965.
10. The Brantford Courier, Brantford: April 29, 1907.
11. Ibid.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid., April 20, 1907.
14. Ibid.
15. Ibid.
16. Ibid. (Note ½ inch difference in height from one recorded on page 4.)
17. Ibid., April 24, 1907.
18. Ibid.
19. Ibid., April 25, 1907.
20. Ibid., May 11, 1907.
21. Ibid.
22. Ibid.
23. Clarence Demar 1911 - 2 hr. 21 min. 39.6 sec. (breaking Tom's record)
    1922 - 2 hr. 18 min. 10 sec.
    1923 - 2 hr. 23 min. 47.4 sec.

Michael J. Ryan 1912 - 2 hr. 21 min. 18.2 sec.

Frank Zuma 1921 - 2 hr. 18 min. 57.6 sec.

Hopkins, J., The Marathon (London: Stanley Paul & Co. Ltd., 1966) pp. 100-101.

CHAPTER IV

AMATEUR OR PROFESSIONAL?

Prior to the Boston Marathon of 1907, references were made regarding the athletic status of Tom Longboat. In fact the Indian runner was to be plagued by this controversy throughout his amateur career. In some cases it was a direct result of his management. The reputation of his managers and their conflicts with Athletic organizations had a direct bearing on the outcome of status declarations. Beyond this, of course, the name Longboat was occasionally linked to cash prizes or to educational funds such as that inaugurated by the Mayor of Toronto following his Boston Marathon victory.

Although Longboat had won the Hamilton Herald Road Race, the J. J. Ward Marathon, and the Hamilton Christmas Race without status question, they were not without controversy. It was prior to the match race between Bonhag, the U.S. Champion and Longboat, that the first reports appeared regarding management.

Harry Rosenthal, the first manager involved in the promotion of Longboat, could be questioned in retrospect, although no conclusions can be drawn. He was a flamboyant manager as illustrated by his media exchanges with sports governing bodies in Canada and the United States. The newspaper articles allude to Rosenthal's methods as chasing around the country with Longboat as a betting proposition[2] and endangering Longboat's standing by the circus methods with which Longboat was unwillingly associated.[3] Longboat himself later complained that he was being run like a race horse.[4] These accusations did not do much for Longboat's status as a runner nor for his status as an amateur but no

charges were levelled against Rosenthal.

Today as in the glory days of Longboat's career, the definition of an amateur athlete is still a very controversial topic. What is an amateur? How much money does one have to accept before he is declared a professional? Does one dollar for expenses constitute professionalism? Does room and board and a token job at a factory constitute professionalism? Does payment to the athlete for lost work time as a consequence of his travelling to compete in an athletic event jeopardize his amateur status? These and many questions cloud the issue even today. Historical evidence indicates that Tom Longboat first left the reservation to run for Rosenthal in Toronto while under the employment of James L. Hughes at a publishing house.[5] Subsequently, until the Boston Marathon Longboat was with the West End YMCA, presumably in residence there as well.

The initial query as to Longboat's status as a runner, came from the Athletic Association who promoted the three mile match race with Bonhag. Although Controller Ward signed a certificate of the Indian's amateur standing,[6] Rosenthal was enraged by the attack upon Longboat's status.

> Harry Rosenthal, the Manager of the Indian runner... is going around with blood in his eye. The attack upon Longboat's amateur status by Buffalo and New York papers has him hot under the collar.
>
> 'Every time we develop an athlete who can train their best men they sit and howl', he remarked, 'Longboat isn't a professional and he isn't going to be for some time yet, if I have anything to say.
>
> He hasn't taken a dollar yet for running and neither have I on his behalf. I am not in the game for my health but anything I have got out of it has been through my own personal wagers.

> Just to satisfy the knockers, I have requested the Canadian Amateur Athletic Union (C.A.A.U.) to investigate Longboat's amateur career. The Indian will come before the governors at the end of the week and I guess if there is anything crooked it won't go by the C.A.A.U. You know how strict they are.
>
> These Americans are simply shooting to shoot Longboat out of the Great Marathon Race in England next summer. Longboat is going over for the big event and the Yankee distance men know that the Red Man will beat them so far that the second man will need binoculars to see the copper hued Canuck. If this knocking keeps up, Longboat will refuse to run across the border at all. They want to see him badly at all the big athletic centers, but we will quit the game very suddenly if there is any more of this wild shooting. They have enough to do to look after their own amateurs. How about the Irish American and Pastime Club stars? Who keeps them in cigarettes and red ties?' [7]

The match was eventually held. Despite this or perhaps because of this the second time Longboat's status was challenged was also connected with his management. Longboat was refused certification by the C.A.A.U. for a New York Athletic Club meet,[8] and without their registration certificate Longboat would have been unable to enter the races. Rosenthal had applied to the C.A.A.U. Secretary for a certificate, but was refused on the grounds that Longboat had either to apply personally or to have the Club to which he belongs sanction the application.[9]

> The C.A.A.U. does not like the idea of Rosenthal parading around the country with the Onondaga and they have very strong suspicions he is not doing it for his health.[10]

It seemed that the C.A.A.U. was concerned that their national and international credibility might well be questioned if they continued to certify as amateur, athletes over whom they had little or no control

and who might well become associated with questionalbe financial practices. Before the race, however, the New York Tribune reported:

> On the Eve of the Annual Winter Games in Madison Square Gardens tonight the New York Athletic Club has been dealt a victorious blow as it were by the Canadian Amateur Association. The body has notified the Mercury Foot Club at the eleventh hour that Longboat, the great Indian runner will not have their sanction for entering the races...
>
> The New York authorities at once wired the C.A.A.U. and learned that in his former races in New York, Longboat had not been dealt with through the medium of the C.A.A.U. The New York Club at once wired apologies.
>
> To be on the safe side, Captain H. Hanbold wired Harry Rosenthal, the Manager of Longboat, to take the train at once in Toronto for New York and get there as soon as possible, explaining that Longboat would get all his expenses whether he was allowed to run or not.[11]

The controversy between Longboat's manager and the C.A.A.U. continued until the Indian runner acquired a new manager in the person of Fred Loft. Prior to stepping down Rosenthal had a parting shot for the C.A.A.U. in an interview with the Toronto Star.

> "I am still looking after Longboat", he said, "But if the C.A.A.U. insists I suppose I will have to step down and out or else something will happen to Longboat and I don't want to see that, but I want to tell you that someone in Longboat's confidence will have to take hold of the lad and look after him all the time or else his days as a runner are numbered.
>
> No club can do this satisfactorily. It is all very well to say that because Longboat belongs to the West End YMCA that he is safe and requires no attention. He will uncoubtedly get first class care while he is there, but they are not going to put a man on Longboat's trail to keep him in attendance at the gymnasium all the time. Neither are

they going to detail a man to look after him when he is outside of the building. Longboat is not a bad boy but he will stand watching all the time.

If Mr. Crow would listen to reason a few moments, I would convince him that Longboat requires attention and strict attention too. I have been with him practically from his first race and I know him as no other man does. Crookedness was attempted in the Herald Race, but since he has been under my charge every race has been on the level. If I hadn't his true interests at heart, would I have gone to Hamilton to get him, pay his expenses down and interest Mr. James L. Hughes in him so that Mr. Hughes secured him a job? I brought the Indian here so that Toronto would have the honor and advertisement of his great abilities and now Toronto men are my very worst enemies in the matter.

Mr. Crow talks about me utilizing him as a circus attraction -- why he has only competed once across the border, and then Mr. Crow refused to issue a registration ticket, and with all my influence I couldn't get him to sanction the Buffalo race but the day before the Captain of the Reg't. came to the city and secured the necessary permission within an hour.

They talk about the YMCA being the proper body to apply to the C.A.A.U. for a permit for the New York race, but I want to tell you that the race was arranged before the Governor advised me not to go to New York and before Longboat was a member of the YMCA. I told the Committee I had this run arranged, and promised the Committee that we would not cross the border again for matched races or exhibitions and yet they throw Longboat down on this, when he had a match to add to his laurels by defeating the American five mile champion, Nebrick.

I am willing to leave Longboat to the YMCA but if at any time you find that Longboat has looped-the-loop, don't blame me. He is a restless fellow and does not take to regular habits, but for all that I will have an interest in him as a member of the West End YMCA. I am willing to obey the C.A.A.U. in all things pertaining to Longboat, but I will expect them at least to be reasonable in their demands. If the C.A.A.U. keeps bothering Longboat, I don't need a pair of field glasses to see what the result will be. I want to say that Mr. Crow is the most unreasonable man I ever ran across.

> Longboat has the stuff in him to win out at the Olympian Games and it would be a shame to see anything happen to him.
>
> By the way, Longboat is not under suspension. At least, if he is he has not been notified of the fact.
>
> Bonhag and Nebrick both have managers and their expenses are paid too every time those men run a race, but I know how strict the C.A.A.U. (is and) has always paid my own expenses." [12]

After these two incidents, which focused upon his manager, Longboat's status was verified as a bona fide amateur by the C.A.A.U. upon his joining the West End YMCA of Toronto, an affiliated league with the C.A.A.U.[13] Yet prior to the Boston Marathon he was again questioned, this time by the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States. The U.S. Registration Committee had revoked his former permit and without their permission Longboat could not compete in the U.S. As previously indicated, the ban was lifted on the Saturday, five days before the Marathon.[14] Another blow fell after the Toronto reception honoring the Marathon champion. The City of Toronto had instituted a Longboat Fund as an educational grant. Brantford with its Mayor and civic officials including YMCA directors followed suit. Every citizen was invited to the later Brantford civic reception. The subscription lists were to be opened hoping $50 could be raised to be put towards Longboat's education.[15] These subscriptions became the focal point of the next thrust at Longboat's amateur status. Subsequent to the Toronto reception a New York article claimed Longboat a professional:

> The Canadian Indian long distance runner has received a purse of $500 as a reward for winning the Boston Marathon Road Race last Friday... Local athletic authorities are already propounding the question 'Is Longboat a professional?' [16]

It would seem that the only event which did not contribute to the controversy was the fashion in which he was greeted on his first return to the reservation.

During this time of the Canadian running craze another top rated distance man arrived in Canada. This was Alfred Shrubb, an English runner, and tabbed as the greatest distance man in the world, as far as records were concerned. His arrival did little to salve the situation concerning the status of Longboat. Shrubb was a known professional runner and upon arrival in New York he avowed intention of meeting Tom Longboat.[17] Immediately the press ran articles of an intended race between Longboat and Shrubb. Longboat, however, although he would like to have raced Shrubb could not, because as an amateur, he would further jeopardize his status by competing against a professional. Several attempts later followed to get Longboat and Shrubb together. Longboat received a number of letters from Arthur Duffy, the New York runner, who was managing Shrubb's American tour. Many tempting offers were made but the Indian turned them all down.[18] In a reported discussion between Controller Ward and Longboat over Shrubb's great record, Longboat noted that he was impressed with the Englishman's record for an hour of 11 miles, 1137 yards.

> 'That is only a little over 5 minutes to the mile' remarked Controller Ward, 'and the best you did at Boston was about 5.47 to the mile. This Englishman would make you go some, Tom'. 'That's so' replied Tom thoughtfully.
>
> 'Well', he said a moment later, 'He only ran an hour and I ran nearly two and a half, I had to save myself and he didn't. I ran over a hilly road, while he ran on a good road on a track and was paced by trained men. I can beat him, and if he wants to run after I win the English Marathon, why I'll race him.'[19]

This reference by Longboat was the Olympic Marathon to be run in London in 1908.

Because of these taunting and sometimes attractive challenges, Longboat's status in the public view was difficult to maintain. As comparisons continued to be made as to physical stature and amateur record times over various distances the two runners were not clearly kept apart. Shrubb's professional times were compared with Longboat's amateur times over ten and twelve miles.[20] All these comparisons being made in the public media were contributory to anyone's arguing against Longboat's amateur status. They provided circumstantial evidence that Longboat was professional.

Minor skirmishes followed when Longboat left Toronto to go to Hamilton. A report of the incident alluded to Longboat being an unprofitable proposition to management by remaining in Toronto.

> If allowed to run under the guidance of his Hamilton friends, he would soon be riding in an automobile of his own, they told him. This was to be accomplished in a manner so well known to Hamilton sports and was explained by a very unkempt individual very tersely when he said: 'It's a cinch. We would run Tom in matched races for medals but we would have a little sum fixed on the side and nobody would be any wiser.'
>
> The fact of the matter is that Bob Merrygold has been a true friend to Longboat and is as square a sport as one would wish to find. When Longboat was arrested here, Merrygold paid his fine while his warm Toronto friends were missing. When one thinks of the action of the men who handled Longboat in Toronto 'cheap sports are the words recalled to mind.'[21]

Longboat had been arrested for getting into a fistfight in one of the local taverns and it was reported that he was sporting a

22(a)
shiner in the next day's newspaper.

Because of this action by Longboat and his moving to Hamilton, he was suspended by the West End YMCA. This suspension also added to the controversy over his status as the Hamilton Spectator reported:

> It is pretty hard to keep track of Tom Longboat, the Indian distance runner these days. Yesterday Tom was in Toronto and the sporting writers were real sorry for all the nasty things they had said about him and they went so far as to discover that he was still eligible as an amateur despite his suspension by the West End YMCA of that City and that he was likely to be a starter in the Games to be held in Toronto on July 20, Of Longboat's case the Telegram said:
>
> 'Tom Longboat, notwithstanding his suspension by the West End YMCA will compete in the Irish Canadian Clubs' Races at the Island on July 20.'
>
> The opinion was held and expressed in some quarters that the Indian owing to his suspension would not be eligible under the C.A.A.U. rules to take part in any races for two months.
>
> Mr. Crow, Secretary of the C.A.A.U. in reply to a question put to him by the Telegram this morning said that this opinion was wrong as Tom Longboat had been suspended as a member of the YMCA and not belonging to any athletic association... [22]

This meant that Longboat was suspended as an individual by the YMCA and that suspension did not include an athletic suspension by the C.A.A.U.

The question which has to be posed is what effect these protests over his status had on Longboat's performance? It would seem that any kind of similar controversy has to affect a person's performance. In a sport where concentrated training and concentrated efforts are required to achieve top performance, such criticisms of

one's status has to have a deterring effect. It is difficult enough to finish any long distance race without negative input.

In recapitulation up to this point, Longboat has been suspended and refused certification both by the C.A.A.U. and the A.A.U. of the United States. The latter organization declared him a professional, although the Canadian group had not gone to such an extent. Civic donations were used as evidence in declaring him a professional. To make the problem more acute, the press of the period continued to compare the running abilities of Longboat and the Englishman, Shrubb, a known professional athlete. To compound the problem, Longboat was suspended by the YMCA for breaking training rules. (He broke the Y's rules against smoking and drinking and was suspended.)[23] The following article best summarizes the disputes concerning Longboat:

> "The remarkable performances of the Indian in the few races of importance in which he has participated had marked him as an athlete of wonderful possibilities.
>
> As a result those who have his best interest at heart are anxious that his amateur standing should be preserved. During the struggle for athletic supremacy in the Dominion he has been the catspaw of the C.A.A.U. and the Athletic Federation of Canada. He has been suspended and reinstated so often that he does not know where he is according to his own statement.
>
> If the C.A.A.U. had done nothing else its handling of Longboat would have marked it as a body utterly incapable of governing athletics and athletes.
>
> Just at present the Indian is in good standing unless he has been suspended in the last twelve hours, but his athletic career has been almost ruined by the fighting organizations on the other side of the border.
>
> The action of those who have handled him in his recent races case a heavy shadow of suspicion on his amateur standing. Those who know Longboat best

> claim that he is an amateur and that he desires to remain as one.
>
> They say that he has never profited financially owing to his ability as a runner. But they do not say the same of those who have had him in charge. In fact some very ugly stories have been told of the way the Red Man has been used by those who have been backing him in some of his recent races. The Indian is looked upon as a national prize winner for Canada and is already spoken of as the winner of the Great Marathon Race in London next summer.
>
> Canada hopes to uphold the honor gained by Sherring in Athens by the work of the Indian in 1908.
>
> He has received many offers from sporting circles in the States to join the professionals and thus put himself in a position to meet Shrubb, the great English professional who has as yet met no one who can even run fast enough to make him extend himself to the limit.
>
> He may possibly locate in Boston or New York unless the warring athletic bodies in Canada settle once and for all his amateur standing." 24

Perhaps the most confusing suspension during Longboat's career was the November suspension by representatives of three professional lacrosse and hockey clubs in Montreal. This ridiculous proceeding occurred shortly before the Kings Birthday 5-Mile Road Race which was run under the auspices of the Independent Harriers of Montreal.

> "The Executive of the Amateur Athletic Federation of Canada, at a meeting held in the Windsor Hotel last night ratified the course taken by the representatives of the Montreal Athletic Association the day before yesterday to refuse to sanction the road race to take place here Saturday and place under the ban all the runners who compete in the same.
>
> The prime cause of the refusal of the Federation to sanction the race is the fact that Longboat and Coley of the Irish-Canadian Club at Toronto will compete.

> These two men are under suspension by the Amateur Athletic Union whose rulings are recognized by the Federation. The misrepresentation in this story is chiefly in the fact that the Federation, which consists of a few professional hockey and lacrosse clubs in that neighborhood was specifically debarred from having anything to do with the race and could not sanction anything.
>
> The race is run under the sanction of the C.A.A.U. which includes all the important amateur athletic associations from Halifax to Vancouver." [25]

As race time approached, Longboat arrived in Montreal, duly entered the Kings Birthday 5-Mile Road Race and swept to victory in a time of 24:55. With regard to the race, Mr. H. A. Spriggins, Secretary of the Athletic Federation said:

> Some mis-statements have been made. The Federation wishes it to be thoroughly understood that the race is not sanctioned by it and that all who compete will be suspended by it. We have not as has been said taken this action because Longboat was suspended by the A.A.U. [26]

The peak of this amateur-professional debate was reached prior to the 1908 Olympic Games. The A.A.U. was kept against Longboat since October as:

> Secretary Dixon of the A.A.U. has forwarded a letter to the National Registration Committee of the organization saying that is has been brought to his attention that several runners registered in the A.A.U. tournament taking place in long distance races in Canada and that permits have been issued for registered American athletes to compete. He adds that Tom Longboat, the Indian and Coley, both Canadian long distance runners in Canada, and that per the A.A.U. for running in the U.S. without permission, and warns American athletes that they must not run against him. [27]

Another well intended incident doubtless did little to establish Longboat as an amateur athlete. In November, 1907 he was offered $2,000 by Mr. Hugh Graham, proprietor of the Montreal Star to be paid five years later if Longboat remained a bona fide amateur athlete. Mr. Graham had written to Longboat as follows:

> "Dear Sir - The world admires your track success. Canadians are proud of what you have done in the field of sport. With Canada's hopes of glory in the athletic field in the future, you have responsibilities. Your own victories may gratify your personal ambition but that should not be the end of it. Your country can be not a little served by a continued example of clean sport.
>
> Most athletes of fame are exposed to extraordinary congratulations at the hands of friends and pretended friends. Remember too that there are always a lot of people jealous of a winner. Enemies will ever be on the watch to trap you into doing a wrong act. An athlete cannot do his best unless he is temperate and honest.
>
> When you are tempted think of Canada. You have been instrumental in bringing her fame. Don't be misled or she will lose it. Aim high and then you will do the best that is in you.
>
> If at the end of five years you are still in the athletic field and it can be truthfully said of you that you have resisted temptations, kept temperance and manager yourself always on the side of clean sport, I shall be most pleased to hand you a check for $2,000.
>
> He added that should Longboat be sent to the Olympic Games next year in England, the Star would meet his expenses.
>
> Tom sent the following letter to Mr. Graham:
>
> "You are very kind. I know how you feel; you want Canada's name kept good; I feel the same; I will do my best. Five years from today I will send you a little bill for two thousand dollars and build a nice little wigwam for my best girl." [28]

This correspondence only provided ammunition for advocates who wished to find evidence of Longboat's professionalism. Graham's offer, as well as the $500 civic grant offered by the City of Toronto earlier was construed as an award for athletic success although the wording of each stipulated that they were to be for good behavior. The constant linking of Longboat's name with substantial sums of money added fuel to the arguments of those who challenged his status as an amateur athlete. These offers were outside the realm of Longboat's control yet the public links were clearly developed.

In the early part of January, the A.A.U. (Amateur Athletic Union) was investigating his amateur standing and President Jas. F. Sullivan informed Flanagan (then manager of Longboat) from New York that he was still suspended for transgressing the Organization's laws:

> If Longboat wants to be reinstated...he must apply like any other foreigner to the national body. When he does apply, the Association will make a thorough investigation into his present standing and if it is found that he is an amateur, a permit will be given him.[29]

On February 13, Tom Longboat lived up to his reputation as a great runner by defeating three crack Canadian runners (a relay team of 3 men) in a ten mile race. In so doing, Longboat lowered Alfred Shrubb's professional record over the same distance and track by 23 seconds.[30] The race however was to give Boston people a case for their continued attack on Longboat's status. On March 9th an article from Boston which reported that:

> Longboat, the Marathon champion and long distance runner, was declared a professional at a meeting of the directors of the New England A.A.U. Three

> well known Canadian runners, Cummings, Pearce and Sellen who paced him in a ten mile race at the Park Square four weeks ago were also put under the bar. At the time of the race, which was run without an A.A.U. sanction, it was openly charged that there was a division of the gate receipts and the four runners participated.
>
> These questions, however, were not brought up by the New England A.A.U. They declared Longboat a professional simply because he had raced at an unsanctioned meet.
>
> Longboat's Manager claimed that a Canadian A.A.U. sanction permitted the meet. It is expected that this action will effectually bar Longboat from participating in the Olympic meet. If he does take part with the permission of the Canadian Athletic authorities, not an American can take part in the meet.[31]

A quip later followed in the Pittsburg Leader quoting:

> "Is Tom Longboat an amateur or a professional? He am a pro." [32]

These allegations prompted the Canadian Olympic Committee, the Registration Committee of the C.A.A.U. to do a report on the Indian's whole athletic career:

> "In this report the Committee states that after a most rigid examination, they are unable to discover that Longboat has profited in the slightest degree from athletics. The I.C.A.C. (Irish Canadian Athletic Club) produced statements and vouchers of every trip made by Longboat since he became connected with the organization, and the committee was unable to find a single term that was not in strict accordance with the amateur rule." [33]

Subsequent to the investigation, it was decided that Longboat would go to the Olympics in London.

The attempts of the meddling officials of the

> American Amateur Athletic Union to prevent the appearance of Tom Longboat as a competitor in the Olympic Games in London would be ridiculous were they not malicious but it can be set down as assured that if the Canadian champion is fit and well next July he will be one of the starters in the Marathon Race at the Games and he may possibly run in some of the shorter events if the order of the races is such as not to interfere with his participation in the events in which Canadians have a particular interest. Those who know most about the Indian's ability believe that he will show as great superiority at a mile or five miles as he has demonstrated over the long courses that have made him famous.[34]

The final effort by the U.S. Sports Governing Body led also to the final controversy immediately prior to the 1908 Olympics.

> Lord Desborough, head of the British Olympic Games Committee, speaking to the Canadian Associated Press said that he had heard nothing with regard to the refusal of Longboat's entry. He said that he believed that there had been trouble across the water, but he had no wish to create trouble here. In fact, he had received no objections with regard to Longboat.
>
> P. L. Fisher, Honorary Secretary of the Amateur Athletic Association, informs the Canadian Associated Press that the Association has not received any objections to Longboat's entry, and that before the A.A.A. could notice any objections such must be in the shape of a specific charge. The R. H. Mallock, Ireland, correspondent of the Canadian Associated Press, wires that Longboat feels fine after his voyage...[35]

The Olympic Games were to be formally opened on July 13, 1908, amidst many protests. After a flag incident in which the U.S. felt insulted because no U.S. flags were flying as part of the colorful decorations, all over the new stadium, the U.S. spokesmen protested the acceptance by the British officials of Indian Tom Longboat's entry in the Marathon Race on the grounds that he had been declared a pro-

fessional in the United States.

The Reverend R. S. DeCourcy Laffan, who was on the British Olympic Committee, received the following letter from the American A.A.U. in response to Longboat's anticipated participation in the Olympic Marathon:

> "The A.A.U. of the United States through its officials now in London desired to acquaint you with the fact that as a matter of record, Thomas Longboat has been declared a professional by the A.A.U. of the United States for an act committed in the United States. This is merely a matter of record." [37]

The act was either for supposedly running in the U.S. without a sanctioning permit and thereby transgressing laws or accepting prize money in the form of a gate split.

On July 23, a day before the Marathon, The Amateur Athletic Federation of Canada joined the Americans in protesting against Longboat as a professional.[38] Despite protests, notably by the Americans, that the Indian Longboat was a professional, he was allowed to compete.[39] The Committee decided the evidence was inconclusive.[40]

During these technical arguments by both sides, Longboat had changed clubs and managers once more. Longboat's membership into the Irish-Canadian Club of Toronto brought him under the management of Tom Flanagan. This transfer occurred following the YMCA suspension noted earlier. The transfer did not go without notice as Longboat had been set up in a business enterprise by Flanagan. Arrangements were made for Longboat to open a cigar store in Toronto.[41] This captured national attention; was this an act that could finally brand Longboat as a professional?

Finally it must be stated that a little evidence has been presented. The rumors of the time were pointed out; the only "hard" evidence is that which pertains to the education fund and the Graham offer. There was great controversy over Longboat's amateur status. It can only be restated that at the peak of this two year long dispute the Olympic Committee in London declared him an amateur prior to the Marathon despite the U.S. complaints and those of the Amateur Athletic Federation of Canada. If that was not sufficient, then Longboat himself quashed all doubt when a month after the Olympics of 1908 he turned professional, following his third Ward Marathon victory.

> As the athlete fingered a large medal attached to a watch guard, he ruefully announced, 'I've been running for these things long enough. Now, I'm after all the money I can get. I'll run for a price against anything with two legs.[42]

FOOTNOTES

1. Refer to thesis Chapter II.
2. The Brantford Courier, Brantford: March 20, 1907.
3. Ibid., March 30, 1907.
4. Cronin, F., "The Rise and Fall of Tom Longboat", MacLeans Magazine, Vol. 69 (Feb. 4, 1956), p.39.
5. The Brantford Courier, Loc. cit. February 22, 1907.
6. Ibid., February 9, 1907.
7. Ibid., February 22, 1907.
8. Ibid., March 12, 1907.
9. Ibid., March 11, 1907.
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid., March 12, 1907.
12. Ibid., March 15, 1907.
13. Ibid., March 30, 1907.
14. Ibid., April 16, 1907.
15. Ibid., April 30, 1907.
16. Ibid., April 27, 1907.
17. Ibid., May 14, 1907.
18. Ibid.
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid.
21. Ibid., July 5, 1907.
22. Ibid., July 12, 1907.
23. Cronin, Op. Cit., p.38.
24. The Brantford Courier, Brantford: August 8, 1907.

25. Ibid., November 7, 1907.

26. Ibid., November 8, 1907.

27. Ibid., October 25, 1907.

28. Ibid., November 10, 1907.

29. Ibid., January 14, 1908.

30. Ibid., February 14, 1908.

31. Ibid., March 10, 1908.

32. Ibid., March 11, 1908.

33. The Brantford Courier, Brantford: March 13, 1908.

34. Ibid., March 14, 1908.

35. Ibid., June 24, 1908.

36. Kiernan, J. and Daley, A., The Story of the Olympic Games 776 B.C. to 1968, (Philadelphis and New York: J. P. Lippincott Co., 1969) p.64.

37. Hopkins, J.C., The Canadian Annual Review of Public Affairs, (Toronto: The Annual Review Publishing Co. Ltd., 1908) p.634.

38. Ibid.

39. Hopkins, J., Op. Cit. (The Marathon) p. 38, 41.

40. Cronin, Op. Cit., p. 38.

41. The Brantford Courier, Brantford: October 16, 1907.

42. Howell and Howell, Sports and Games in Canadian Life, 1700 to the Present, (Toronto: MacMillan of Canada, 1969) p. 152.

CHAPTER V

LONGBOAT'S QUEST FOR OLYMPIC GOLD: THE 1908 OLYMPIC GAMES

Despite the many controversial times that Longboat had to endure, his track performance did not appear to decrease in any significant manner. He continued to be the most talked about athlete in North America. A smile was to become his trademark in the twenty plus races he ran prior to the 1908 Olympics in London.

As stated in the amateur-professional discussion in the preceeding chapter, Longboat was to startle the Marathon watchers by running against relay teams of three to five men. The first race Longboat was to run after the Boston Marathon was an athletic event of international interest when Frank Nebrick agreed to a matched race with the man from Oshweeken. The men were to meet in a three mile affair at Kenilworth Park on Decoration Day. The race touted as the greatest match ever run in Buffalo was won by Longboat.[1] Nebrick had defeated Bonhag and other good men while winning the Amateur Athletic Union's National Cross Country Championship of the U.S. in 1907.[2] While training for the run Longboat slipped three miles through the mud and against a heavy wind in 15.15 and finished strong and undistressed at the Dufferin Track.

> The three mile match race between Longboat of Toronto and Nebrick of Buffalo was the feature at the West End YMCA Games at Toronto. Nebrick took the lead to the third lap when Longboat, who by the way ran with goggles on, took the lead with Nebrick close behind. Nebrick took the lead at the mile and a half and they kept this way till half a lap from the finish when

> Longboat sprinted but Nebrick was game and shook him off.
>
> They rounded into the stretch together and many thought that their idol -- Longboat -- was beaten.
>
> Not so, smiling Longboat had something up his sleeve and by a magnificent sprint ten yards from the tape, Tom snatched the victory by a margin of between six inches and a foot. The time was 15.2½ seconds.[3]

Many runners challenged Longboat as his fame increased, perhaps wanting to share in his glory. Black Star, a Carlisle Indian, wanted to run Longboat and so did National Buffalo but both backed down.[4] Another Indian, also a Carlisle, Black Hawk, was matched with Longboat over ten miles in the Armories of the Pennsylvania National Guard at Philadelphia, but that race was declared off on some question as to eligibility.[5] Interest was also shown by Western Canadian athletes when Burn, a long distance runner from Calgary issued a challenge to Longboat:

> The Westerner has never set up any remarkable records, and the Irish-Canadians will inform him that if he wants a chance at the Indian he can get it in the Montreal Herald Race. The men beaten by Burn in the West are not thought to compare as a class with the runners who have finished behind the local Onondaga in his numerous engagements.[6]

There is no record that the event was run off, however, it more likely was not.

In the meantime, Alfred Shrubb was running professionally and beating everyone. At the same time he was continually quoted in the papers as wanting to run against Longboat.

"Shrubb is wishing to run a series of races against Longboat at distances from two miles to twenty-five for $3,000.00."[7] But Longboat could not meet Shrubb in actual competition prior to the Olympics although he wanted to: instead he had to settle for indirect confrontations. This included an attempt to better Shrubb's five mile time. Longboat's times were comparable to Shrubb's over ten miles but Shrubb had been world record holder at most shorter distances, prior to his suspension for a rule infraction while on an Australian tour.[8]

On July 29, 1907, Tom Longboat broke the Canadian record at Ottawa by beating three men in relays over five miles.

> Longboat went the five miles on the Lansdowne Park in 25.55 which is a Canadian record, one minute and one second better than Tom Coley made at the Irish Canadian Games in Toronto.
>
> Hilton Green was Longboat's first opponent but the brown demon got away from his Indian friend like a streak. Green hung on for two and a half miles and was 75 yards to the bad when Tom Coley set out after Longboat. Coley crowded on a big spurt and caught his man, holding him for two miles when Lou Marsh of Toronto went away with Longboat for the last half mile lap.
>
> Marsh sprinted and opened out a 25 yard lead at the start. It looked as though Longboat had taken on too heavy a task but the smiling Indian never faltered. In the final quarter he began to close up and in the last section he came up to the shoulder of Marsh. Marsh is a dandy at 220 yards but he could not take on the spring to get away from Longboat and Tom just had him by an inch at the tapes.
>
> The last mile was the fastest of the five. Marsh being instrumental in bringing Longboat's time away down.[9]

Shrubb's best performance in his career for five miles was 24 minutes 33 2/5 seconds.

Records continued to fall before the swift feet of Longboat.

This record was one of many to be set by Longboat. He set a new Canadian three mile mark at the University Games in Toronto in the fall of 1907.[10] His time of 15.09 lowered the previous record of 15.33. A week prior to this record Longboat won his second Ward Marathon, also in record time and in doing so established himself as the greatest runner, including Shrubb, of the era.

> It is extremely unfortunate that the course had not been accurately measured by a surveyor for Longboat covered what is supposed to be twenty miles in 1.41.40, a mark which breaks the world's record for that distance by 12 minutes. It seems incredible that the flying Onondaga should have gone so swiftly, but three watches caught the time and all agreed on it. It is admitted that the course is a trifle short of 20 miles, but it is claimed to be more than nineteen and a half. Even on the assumption that it is nineteen miles, the record is a wonderful one. The great Indian is now in better condition than at any other time since he made his appearance as a distance runner, and his club mates believe him capable of setting a mark for twenty miles or over which will stand for years.
>
> The course was in splendid condition, there being no dust, and very little wind and the temperature was favorable for the race. Twenty thousand people saw the start and finish at the Exhibition Grounds, fifteen thousand having been comfortably seated in the monster stand. Owing to inadequate police arrangement, there were many points of admittance to the grounds other than by the turnstile but after all expenses are paid there will be a nest egg of about $600 for a fund with which it is proposed to send a Canadian track team to the Olympics in England next summer.
>
> It was a one man race the minute the Indian got ready to make his run. He went to the front at New Toronto on the outbound trip was three hundred yards ahead of his nearest competitor at the turn, and increased his lead all the way home, coming into the grounds and finishing on the track about three quarters of a mile ahead of Lawson, the West End YMCA man who was second.
>
> The Indian was not at all distressed and looked fit to run another ten without much trouble.

> Lawson was three minutes behind Longboat and Tait as far behind Lawson.
>
> W. Wood of Brantford YMCA finished close behind Tait and three minutes separated the Brantfordite and Goldsboro of the Central YMCA...[11]

As the time neared the Olympics, Longboat continued in his feat of setting records and defeating relay teams. He defeated Marsh of Winnipeg[12] over five miles and Goldsboro also over five miles at Toronto.[13] Perhaps two of his bigger victories though were his February 13th run at the Park Square in Boston defeating a relay team of three men and at the same time lowering Shrubb's record by 23 seconds,[14] and his June record run over 15 miles in Montreal, this time against a five man team during which he lowered the record by 2 minutes 47 seconds to one hour, 24 minutes and 8 seconds.[15] In the Boston run, which broke Shrubb's ten mile record by twenty three seconds, the relay team members were: Sellen, Pearce and Cummings, all notable runners during the era of the Marathon craze. Although there were numerous victories in the short span of two years it was not all easy for Longboat. His second setback on the track occurred on the second of September when a relay team running three miles in 16.02/5 defeated the Indian runner at Buffalo.[16]

Since his suspension by the YMCA, Longboat's greatest days were yet to become his worst. It was an era in which the individual champion rather than the team was idolized and in the fashion of Sullivan and Corbett, the fighter, and Ned Hanlan, the Oarsman, Longboat had become public hero number one to most Canadians and many Americans. He was likeable but headstrong. He balked at the training rules of the West End Y claiming that he hadn't done much training

before and saw no need for it now. A historian might say this was the turning point in the decline and fall of a fine athlete. A sociologist could also point out that the seeds of his own downfall within Longboat were forced to an early fruition by the enormous change in his social climate. Longboat's trail to the Olympics was to become extremely difficult due to health problems, social pressure, political conflicts over his status, and management difficulties.

Prior to the Olympics Longboat undertook one of his greatest physical feats, an undertaking which may have also been one of the critical management erros in his career. In October, 1907, Longboat set out on a 42 mile run from Hamilton to Toronto. "Longboat is in superb condition", said Manager Tom Flanagan of the Irish-Canadians, "and is anxious to get on the road for his trying journey."[17] His friends had bet a great deal of money that he would complete the run in less than five and one half hours, but he failed.

> Hamilton turned out in force Wednesday at 12:40 and cheered Longboat to the limit when he started from the Waldorf Hotel on his long journey of 42 miles to Toronto. The Indian hit up a merry clip and passed through Burlington at 1:35 at the rate of about ten miles an hour and this eventually proved his undoing. When about a mile from Bronte, his shoes were hurting his feet, and a stop was made and his shoes changed. He had a bad trip all the way to Oakville, the roads being very heavy and in bad condition for running.
>
> At Oakville his feet were treated and he had something to eat and left at 3:21, after 15 minutes rest and feeling in fine shape but the road from there to Port Credit is the worst of the journey.
>
> The hills are very steep and come in close succession and being very sandy it made this part of the trip a heart breaker, and many a runner would have quit, but not Tom. He took to the hills and the sand as though he meant it and was running without the slightest effort. The Natives along the line turned out en masse

> and helped considerably with their cheers. It looked at this stage as if Longboat would make the distance easily and in good time. He passed through Long Branch at 5:15 seemingly able to finish nicely. A large crowd of boys on bicycles and numerous motor cars had fallen in line and were cheering the game runner on as best they could but Tom's feet were nearly gone and it was with great difficulty that he kept up. Just at the creek bridge the other side of the Humber Hotel he was in bad shape and had to walk a long distance.
>
> A big effort was being made to get him inside the city limits and he started again only to crowd into Nurse's Hotel for a rest of fully 15 minutes. Here everything was done that was possible to round him into shape and he pluckily started off again at 6:18 only to stop just inside the limits. His general condition was good but his feet had gone back on him and it was only killing a good and game runner, it was decided to drive him fairly well down town and let him finish at the Tremont House rather than disappoint the citizens altogether. He trotted into the Tremont House at 6:45 where he was put to bed and his wants immediately attended to.
>
> The Tremont House was packed with enthusiastic supporters who cheered Tom Longboat and Tom Flanagan again and again, which goes to show that the citizens of Toronto more than appreciated the game struggle he put up. Tom Flanagan declares that before long the other Tom will make the run inside of five hours.[18]

This may have been a good publicity stunt by Longboat's managers. However, one may query whether it did the runner's condition any good, or did it in fact contribute to his decline? Certainly it would have been a psychological blow to the Indian runner's confidence to say nothing of the possible effects on his physical capabilities. A single continuous run of this magnitude could well have produced severe physiological and psychological problems, at least on a short term basis.

It was after this failure that Longboat for the first time in his career did not finish in a competitive race. He pulled out short of the West Toronto Games ten mile run.[19]

> The Indian was believed to be in good order, and he had been working hard in his recent training on the reserve, so that his collapse was all the more remarkable. Manager Flanagan of the Irish Canadians considered him fit to make all the local runners into camp and to handle them at all stages of this journey. He was dumbfounded when the Onondaga began to show signs of trouble early in the race. The runners had not gone a mile when Longboat, who was always up with the first division, began to fumble with his waistband, as if he felt uncomfortable, and at about four miles from the start he collapsed and gave up. Not much could be got out of him as to his trouble, but whatever it was, his aches or pains did not seem to bother him after he had been taken into the automobile. Willie Sherring, who accompanied the runner, could not account for it, and the spectators generally came home with the impression that Longboat was not able to perform like he used to...[20]

The Toronto Globe later reported that a special examination was to be made by a medical representative of the C.A.A.U., after a club physician stated:

> Boils were the cause of the breaking out on the Indians anatomy.
>
> No wonder Tom Longboat was forced to 'chuck it up' in the 10 mile race at the Junction Saturday, and all the unkind things that have been said about him are fully retracted by those who have been heaping criticism on his head since the race. The development of yesterday show him still to be possessed of gameness and dogged tenacity which have marked most of his races.
>
> Longboat was taken to Dr. Guinance for examination, and the doctor found that the carbuncles which necessitated his few days suspension of training at Caledonia were affecting him badly. The muscles and tissues of the side which bothered him Saturday, and which the Indian said were afflicted with cramps were so sore that it is a wonder that he was able to run as far as he did. On Monday, following the Saturday race, trainer Flanagan sent the Indian another four miles on the track, and Longboat did his work

> without a whimper, although he must have been in severe distress. Aside from the troublesome carbuncles, Dr. Guinance says that Tom is in fine physical condition and will be as good as ever in the course of a couple of weeks...[21]

Longboat had been returning to the Caledonia Reserve to train, a practice he had inaugerated prior to his lowering the ten mile record in Boston.[22] Again as he was preparing to run in the Olympic trials, he did warm-up races around his home grounds. On one occasion he defeated James Henry in an 11 mile race fron Hayesville to Caledonia with a time of 59 minutes and 10 seconds. (Almost eight minutes better than the time run by Henry.)[23] A couple of weeks earlier he had a dead heat finish with W. F. Cummings for the one mile in Toronto,[24] but the time was not recorded.

It had been decided to use the Brantford-to-Hamilton Marathon as the Olympic Trial for the distance on the condition that a suitable place be secured to collect a nominal fee. The fee to be charged to the spectators desiring to see the finish was for the purpose of financing the Canadian Olympic Team.[25]

Longboat did not run at the Trials. Despite this he was selected for the National Team on the basis of his brilliant record of victories.[26] In order that the Olympic Committee might have what might be termed an official opinion as to Longboat's fitness and general condition, he was taken by Trainer Crocker, the recently appointed handler of the Canadian Olympic Team, to Dr. Spragge, the Police Surgeon. This was done at the insistence of Inspector Stark, President of the C.A.A.U.[27] who was aware of Longboat's set-back as a result of boils and carbuncles.

Following his recovery from the infection that produced the boils and carbuncles, Longboat returned to run the fifteen mile course

and beat the Olympic Trial winner Lawson's time:

> ...by a minute all but a few seconds...Two Hamilton runners, Woods and Adams, went out on the course presumably to look it over, but when they got there they ran with the Indian. At the turn he was fifty yards to the good and he finished the jaunt like a locomotive. Just how well Longboat would go 25 miles remains to be seen, but on the form shown yesterday, he ought to be better than ever at the distance. It is not deemed wise to run him in the final, but he will be sent to England on the strength of his brilliant record of victories against all comers. He will run the three mile handicap at Rossdale on Saturday. Tom holds the Canadian record of 15.09 for that distance, and it is fully expected that he will beat his own time.[28]

Just prior to leaving for England for the Olympic Games, Longboat ran a 15 mile exhibition race against a relay team of the five best middle distance runners of the Gordon Harriers and other clubs: Abbie Wood, W. Keer, F. D. Baker, S. J. Coonan, and J. Gordon.

> At intervals of 3 miles, fresh runners took up the race, but Longboat kept well in the lead. The day was cool and favorable for running except that the road was very dusty. Longboat ran the distance in 1:24:08, lowering his previous record over the same course by two minutes and forty seven seconds. He was almost half a mile ahead of his competitors at the finish, and was running strong and fresh...The performance shows that the great aborigine is better than ever and the victory promises well for the biggest win of the Olympic Games coming to Canada twice in succession. The remainder of the Olympic Team were entertained at the M.A.A.A. last night (Lawson, Tait, Archibald, Sibert, Meadowns, Barber, Gaulding, Goldsboro, Woods, and Keith and Elliott, the gymnasts) and then escorted to their boat by pipes and band, and an immense number of admirers and well wishers. They sailed at daylight on the Steamer Tunision.[29]

Prior to the Olympics, Flanagan took Longboat to Limerick, Flanagan's birthplace, ostensibly for a six week preparation for what had been called "The Greatest Marathon Ever." The runner boasted later that although he did a lot of work under Flanagan's watchful eye, he was able to bribe the dairy maids into spiking his milk with Irish whiskey.[30] Again it could be queried whether this was good management: Flanagan, instead of watching his charge night and day, found so many distractions of his own that he was completely ineffective.[31]

The controversy surrounding the noted Indian runner was to continue right up to the running of the Olympic Marathon. The 1908 Olympics had been a goal for Tom Longboat and for his trainers as it was an opportunity of proving to the world the capabilities of Longboat as a distance runner. Instead the Olympics produced a tragedy and the downfall of a sports hero. Running for Canada at the London Olympics, Longboat failed to finish and rumors were that he had been doped. Perhaps it was better that Longboat did not win in view of the many protests and suspensions with which he had been burdened. The Olympic run itself was spectaculor as illustrated by the following account:

> "The day of the race was the hottest Londoners had had for many years. The sun was scorching as fifty-five Marathoners from a dozen countries lined up four deep in the east lawn of Windsor Castle. The course lay over winding hilly roads which watering carts and roller brushes had been working all morning to keep down the dust. Every cottage on the course was festooned with flags and bunting and thousands of spectators waited in the sun. Another seventy thousand, including Queen Alexandra, waited in the stadium at Shepherd's Bush where the race would finish three hours after it started. At 2:33 p.m. the pistol cracked, Longboat, in a white jersey adorned with a maple leaf and the number 72, leaped to the front like a deer and set a killing pace. He appeared to be in perfect condition and led for a few miles but the hills and the heat and the pace began

> to tell on him. At the nine mile mark Lord of England was leading and Tom had fallen back to fourth place. At twelve miles Price of England had taken the lead, followed by Lord, Hefferon of South Africa, Dorando of Italy, and Longboat now in fifth place.
>
> Dorando (his full name was Dorando Pietri) arrived at the stadium first, about two minutes ahead of the American, John J. Hayes. But fifty yards from the finish Dorando collapsed. Track officials helped him to his feet and across the line, thereby unwittingly disqualifying him. The Judges then awarded the race to Hayes.
>
> But where was Longboat?
>
> At about the nineteen mile mark he had slowed to a walk, then stopped altogether. He proceeded to the stadium in a car and was carried in on a stretcher for medical attention. Later Flanagan said 'It was the heat that beat him. We lost honestly.'" [32]

But the Canadians and others could not believe he had failed them and rumors were widespread that Longboat had been doped. Only recently a fan (Eve Harris of Sacramento, Calif.) wrote in a sports magazine:

> I had followed (Longboat) on a bicycle twice while training over the full route and never saw him distressed. You can never convince me that he wasn't 'jobbed' or that possibly $100,000 was not won on his failure.[33]

Max Howell and Johann Louw, sport historians, quoting from "John Howard Crocker, Report of the First Canadian Olympic Athletic Team", 1908, report respectively as follows:

> "There (1908 Olympics) he competed in the race but collapsed after being in second place at the twentieth mile. J. H. Crocker, Manager of the team, stated in his report:

> 'I consider it my duty to state that my experience in racing leads me to believe that Longboat should have won this race. His sudden collapse and the symptoms shown seem to me to indicate that some form of stimulant was used contrary to the rules of the games. I think that any medical man knowing the facts of the case will assure you that the presence of a drug in an overdose was the cause of the runner's failure.'"[34]

The conflict in the reported position is unascertainable and it can only be stated Longboat collapsed between the nineteenth and twentieth mile.

What would have happened if Longboat had won the Marathon is conjecture. But it can be safely presumed that the British Olympic Committee applauded Longboat's misfortune in the face, which Crocked described as follows:

> "All say that Longboat was running well at the twentieth mile in second place. He collapsed without any warning and complained of a severe pain in the head. This with the facts of his condition on arrival at the Stadium forty minutes afterwards, leaves me but little doubt that the Indian received an overdose of some stimulant. As soon as he was brought in I went over and examined him carefully. A doctor was there and said 'He is better now and will be all right but he had a close call.' I found a weak pulse --the respiration very slow - a pinpoint pupil which was not sleep. To all appearances someone had got anxious and thinking to help the Indian by giving him a stimulant, had given him an overdose. Some people thought that Tom Flanagan might have been personally involved, but Manager Crocker rejected such accusations. Crocker felt very strongly against incriminations that Longboat sold the race and stated that 'This does a good runner like Longboat, uneducated as he may be, a great injustice.' [35]

It is of course difficult today to prove such allegations

and we will never know the real story. Certainly, had medical advancements at the time been as sophisticated as they are for present day Olympic drug tests, clarifications may have been possible. It is best to leave these allegations unclear without accusing anyone of anything because of the lack of sufficient evidence. Each reader is left to speculate as to whether Longboat was drugged or whether the extreme heat and the fast pace coupled with his earlier bout with a serious infection lead to Longboat's early finish of the 1908 Olympic Marathon run.

Although he did not win a gold medal for Canada, Longboat's influence was more beneficial than a medal since it forced a Union of Amateur Athletics in Canada which was to survive until the formation of the present Canadian Federation of Amateur Sports of 1970. Further it is questionable if any person regardless of ability could win for his country under such pressure from outside before and during the Olympic competitions. An example is the more recent Elaine Tanner incident at the Pan Am Games.[35a] It can certainly be contended that it is difficult for an athlete to be mentally prepared for an event while living under the shadow of group protests and public accusations. Knowing that an outcome wherein Longboat raced home a medalist would have lead to an international conflict among sports governing bodies perhaps it can be viewed as a blessing to them that Longboat did not finish the Marathon. For the great Canadian runner, however, it was a personal tragedy.

A new era was to begin for Tom after the tragic climb towards Olympic glory that ended disastrously amid the query of a possible drug incident. His name was still well-known and there were those

who hoped to use it for financial gain:

> Back in New York a pair of promoters, Pat Powers and Howard Pollock proceeded to capitalize on the intense public interest in marathons, sparked by the Olympics. Powers was probably the biggest promoter of his time. He used to book Madison Square Gardens one hundred nights a year, then find attractions to fill it. Pollock was a sports writer whom Powers found useful as a press agent. The pair induced Dorando and Hayes to turn professional and run against each other in the Garden over the full Marathon distance. The race took place November 25, 1908 and Dorando won by about sixty yards. Then Powers set out to get Longboat too, to turn pro and race Dorando but another professional had been vainly trying to take on Longboat since well before the Olympics.
>
> He was Alfred Shrubb, reputed to be a perfect running machine, a cocky little Englishman who held all world distance records from one and a half miles to eleven miles. He had turned pro in England and came to America in 1907 in the hope of running a series of races against Longboat. Flanagan, his eye on the Olympics, had refused. And after the Olympics, inspite of a campaign of taunting and ridicule by Shrubb, Flanagan felt that Longboat had to redeem himself if he was to be successful as a professional.[36]

The Indian proceeded to do just that. He won race after race. On August 22nd, less than a month after the Olympics Longboat beat Sellen and others in a Hamilton five mile race, then on the 30th, in Halifax, he beat the five mile record in winning the C.A.A.U. championship with a time of 26 minutes, 5 3/5 seconds.[37] In the fall of October 26th, Longboat won the Montreal Marathon Road Race, 15 miles against 112 of Canada's best runners.[38] He also led a field of 153 runners to win the Ward Marathon for the third year in a row. William Stalk, President of the Canadian A.A.U. said "I think he has since his return (from the Olympics) proven himself the greatest long distance runner of the century."[39]

Thus ends the first portion of this fantastic athlete's career. It is but mere speculation; but, query what this man could have achieved today with present training techniques available to amateur athletes. He was truly a pioneer in the sports world for Indian people in Canada and North America, indeed.

It is interesting to consider that from the October 18, 1906 Herald Road Race until the December 15th, 1908 professional run, Tom Longboat won the Boston Marathon breaking all records in 1907 and the J. J. Ward Marathon in Toronto three times (1906, 1907, 1908). He also set Canadian amateur records in 1908 including a 3 mile record in 15 minutes 9 3/5 seconds and 15 miles at 1 hour, 25 minutes, 43 2/5 seconds. As well, Tom Longboat was the Canadian Amateur champion at 5 miles in 26 minutes, 5 3/5 seconds in 1908.[40] He also bettered Alfie Shrubb's ten mile record in a matched relay. Even then it was phenomenal for a single athlete to hold records in the 3, 5, 10, 15 miles and Marathon distances. When one considers that Longboat achieved this remarkable feat in the short space of two years, and by the age of twenty, it is even more astounding.

FOOTNOTES

1. The Brantford Courier, Brantford: May 11, 1907.
2. Ibid., May 17, 1907.
3. Ibid., June 10, 1907.
4. Ibid., June 6, 1907.
5. Ibid., October 29, 1907.
6. Ibid., October 17, 1907.
7. Ibid., September 11, 1907.
8. Ibid., May 14, 1907.
9. Ibid., July 30, 1907.
10. Ibid., October 19, 1907.
11. Ibid., October 14, 1907.
12. Ibid., September 7, 1907.
13. Ibid., September 21, 1907.
14. Ibid., February 13, 1908.
15. Ibid., June 11, 1908.
16. Ibid., September 2, 1907.
17. Ibid., October 30, 1907.
18. Ibid., November 1, 1907.
    Longboat's times in the run were as follows:

    Hamilton 12.40.30
    Burlington, 8 3/4 miles 1.35.35
    Bronte, 13 3/4 miles 2.25.00
    Oakville, 18 3/4 miles 3.07.02
    Port Credit, 28 3/4 miles 4.37.53
    Rifle Ranges, 29 1/4 miles 5.00.12
    New Toronto, 33 3/4 miles 5.37.30
    Humber Hotel, 36 3/4 miles 6.05.57
    Longboat rode in an automobile to Spadina Avenue whence he walked to the Tremont House 42 3/4 miles arriving at 6:45. Ran 36 3/4 miles in 5 hours, 25 minutes, 27 seconds.

19. Ibid., May 16, 1908.

20. The Brantford Courier, Brantford: May 18, 1908.

21. Ibid., May 20, 1908.

22. Ibid., February 11, 1908.

23. Ibid., May 4, 1908.

24. Ibid., April 13, 1908.

25. Ibid., March 16, 1908.

26. Ibid., June 3, 1908.

27. Ibid., May 20, 1908.

28. Ibid., June 3, 1908.

29. Ibid., June 12, 1908.

30. Cronin, Op. Cit., p. 38.

(a) Brantford Courier, March 16, 1908.

> Flanagan proposed to sail from Canada with the Indian about May 10. This will give him 2 full months in Limerick before the Marathon. He proposes about three weeks before this the feature event of the Olympic Games to hold a trial race at 15 or 20 miles in Ireland open to anybody who cares to compete. This would be the final real try out for the Indian and he would be just held at his speed thereafter.

31. Pennington, Op. Cit., January 28, 1965.

32. Cronin, Op. Cit., p.38.

33. Loc. Cit.

34. Howell and Howell, Sports and Games in Canadian Life, 1700 to the Present, (Toronto: MacMillan of Canada, 1969), p. 266.

35. Louw, Johann: "Canada's Participation at the Olympic Games", Unpublished M.A. Thesis, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1971, p.72.

(a) The Canadian public expected Tanner to win the Pan Am gold so much that when she only won a silver they were disappointed. So much added outside pressure was placed on the young Tanner that it may have contributed to her loss.

36. Cronin, Op. Cit., p. 38.

37. Arnold Thomas, Canadian Almanac, 1909, (Toronto: The Copp Clark Co. Ltd., 1909), p.409.

    Hopkins, C. T., The Canadian Annual Review of Public Affairs, 1908. (Toronto: The Annual Review Publishing Co. Ltd., 1909), p.635.

38. Canadian Annual Review of Public Affairs, 1908. Ibid., p.636.

39. Cronin, Op. Cit., p.38.

40. Arnold Thomas, Op. Cit., p.152.

CHAPTER VI

THE PROFESSIONAL YEARS: 1908-1912

Longboat ran his first professional race against Dorando, (the man who finished first in the London Olympic Marathon but who was disqualified for receiving help) at New York on December 15, 1908 over the Marathon distance. Thus begins a second segment of his career as an athlete.

In a re-examination of events prior to Longboat turning professional, it will be recalled that Shrubb had been constantly goading Longboat throughout his amateur career. Shrubb's arrival at that time stoked the fire of the controversial star's career. However, on the other hand it was to add to the colorful career of Longboat's professional years as both men were to captivate thousands in matched races. It was thus only a matter of time before

> Sports writers and the sporting public began to demand a showdown between Longboat and Shrubb but Powers offered Flanagan a portion of the gate receipts if Longboat would take on Durando. Flanagan agreed...it was a sell out...[1]

In the year previous an on-going battle off the track went on between Longboat and Shrubb. As background to the fabulous match races to follow, Shrubb at one point added a mysterious allegation. As an amateur the Indian could not run Shrubb head to head, so he offered a return challenge.

> It would seem now that the open question as to which Shrubb or Longboat is really entitled to wear the laurels of champion long distance runner is within measurable distance of being definitely

> settled. Today Shrubb received a challenge from his Indian rival to run from Oakville to Toronto; a distance of 22 miles just to decide all comparisons. Longboat to start one hour after Shrubb and lapse time to be reckoned at the finish. When seen this evening by a reporter, Shrubb said he had not had time to consider it fully, but it appeared like a tricky defy. He however wired as follows, 'Will accept on condition that Longboat shall start level with me. My last and only proposition will be that we shall run a series of four matches, five, ten, fifteen and twenty miles respectively on a measured track and then a final race of 25 miles distance on the road. The entire gate receipts of the first five miles to be given to the Sick Children's Hospital, Toronto.'
>
> Shrubb intimated that unless these terms were accepted he would not consider the matter further, but would permit the question of supremacy on road or track to go undecided for at least another year. He considers his terms eminently fair both to himself, Longboat and the interested public who would thus be in a position to see both men and draw their own conclusions...[2]

Shrubb was positive in his decision that Longboat must start even with him or there would be no race. Later he charged crookedness, basing his allegations on the following:

> When there was chance of having a series of races with the Indian, one of Longboat's principal backers had come to him and said that it would be necessary to allow the Indian to win the second race. Shrubb replied that if that was the condition, then he would never race with Longboat. He had never run a crooked race in his life. Every time he pulled on his shoes to run his friends could depend on him doing his best.[3]

With that kind of advance billing it was a natural for Longboat as a professional to be a gate attraction. With continuous media coverage on both runners, the public were hungry for the match race to settle all arguments. However this was not to be so right

away as Longboat was matched instead with Dorando Pietri, the 1908 Olympic Marathon champion who was disqualified and had later turned professional. This was perhaps better as it gave Longboat a chance to show all doubters he could have won the Marathon in London.

> "When the pair stood at the starting line, the lanky Indian towered over the stocky Italian. At the pistol, a mighty roar went up. Dorando took the lead with short, jaunty steps while Longboat loped along a few yards behind. The Italian led most of the way but occasionally Longboat would put on a spurt and take the lead amid deafening applause and cheers. In a couple of laps Dorando would again forge ahead. The heat became oppressive and every half mile or so the runners would take a water-soaked sponge from an assistant and wipe the sweat off their faces without slackening the pace.
>
> At twenty-five miles they were still close together but Longboat seemed to be weakening. Flanagan then demonstrated his flair for practical psychology. He took Longboat's fiance, a pretty little Mohawk, to the edge of the track. As Longboat came around again, he saw the girl, her hands up and both pride and encouragement in her expression. His sinews seemed to take on new strength and he increased the pace. As the runners vanished around the track there came a roar from the crowd. Dorando, with a bare half mile to go had suddenly staggered and dropped. Longboat jogged on along and completed the distance."[4]

He was front page news on both sides of the Atlantic. In the Toronto Globe, the headline "Tom Longboat Retrieves His Olympic Defeat" took precedence over other international news.

Longboat was now a full-fledged professional runner of twenty years. He had won his first professional run just as he had won his first big amateur race. His amateur career had been fraught with conflicts, protests and difficulties. His professional career was likewise to be one not without troubles.

Little Alfie Shrubb again tried to arrange a series of races

and challenged Longboat to three races at ten, fifteen, and twenty miles. Flanagan refused, explaining that Longboat wanted to be married. His marriage to Lauretta Maracle, his Mohawk fiance, took place with Indian ceremony at Six Nations reserve on December 28, 1908 and a wedding reception for them was held that evening on the stage of Massey Hall in Toronto at the close of a benefit performance for the couple. Hundreds of people filed up a runway to the stage to shake hands with the newlyweds. Five days later Longboat once more met Dorando in a marathon race this time at Buffalo.[5]

The second event had been held under the auspices of the Officers Club of the 74th Regiment who had prepared a nine laps to the mile clay track in Buffalo's Great Armory. This track distance enabled additional seating accomodation because

> ...so great was the interest and desire to see the big runners that the crowd began to line up before dark waiting for the doors to open though the race was not scheduled to start till a quarter to nine.[6]

Seating was provided for 7,000 and every seat was sold, one dollar being the lowest price of admission. It was estimated that the receipts were about $10,000 of which $3,300 would go to the winner and $2,200 to the loser, the other 45% being divided amongst the promoters and the Officers Club.[7]

> Mr. Wm. J. Conners, the big Democrat of the Empire State, fired the pistol that sent them on their long tiring journey. Dorando won the toss and took the inside position. The pace was fast from the first for both were willing to have it that way. The Italian set off in front and the Indian dogged at his heels. They put in the first mile in five minutes and seven seconds, a tremendous pace for a race of 25 miles.

> The band of the regiment occupied space in the centre of the floor and "The Maple Leaf" was frequently heard during the evening to tremendous applause. The Irish-Canadian Club's excursion from Toronto brought ten carloads of enthusiasts and Mayor Oliver took a little recreation after the campaign by watching the marvelous red man score another victory.
>
> In the last lap of the second mile Longboat made a misstep in the soft footing around the second turn and fell, Dorando looked over his shoulder when he heard the great shout that arose and increased his pace slightly. Longboat was on his feet immediately and dashed after the fleeing Dorando like a wild man. The whole arena was in an uproar over the unexpected scene and Longboat's trainers vainly endeavored to attract his attention to their signals to take his time about making up the lost ground as it was early in the long contest. Everything went unheeded, though, till he had caught Dorando in less than a lap, passed him and then laughingly surrendered the lead to the Italian again. [8]

Longboat beat Dorando in a more convincing fashion as he "was dead beaten", before doing nineteen miles and abandoned the contest. "He fell downstairs when being conducted to his dressing room and was utterly exhausted by his desperate and long continued effort to stay with the tireless Onondaga. As in New York, the little Italian -- and he's not a very little fellow -- did the best he could and died battling but he was in a match he could not win, barring the possibility of an accident to his competitor. Dorando can't beat Longboat but the same may be said of a million other people." [9]

Longboat's victory caused Dorando to say his failure was probably due to having too many hard races close together over a great distance and Longboat was too good for him now at any rate. An interesting comparison occurred in the Brantford account of the race.

> The Indian's stride is greater and much easier than that of Dorando. Longboat took 114 and occasionally 115 strides to the lap. On the other hand, Dorando had to pick up and put down his feet 124 times each lap and sometimes his stride numbered 129.[10]

There was little or no betting on the race though Longboat had many supporters who did not mind putting down a wager on him against anybody in the world.

The times for the three professional races run up to that date were Dorando vs. Hayes (Dorando in 2.44, 20 2/5 over a distance of 26 m. 285 yds.); Longboat vs. Dorando (Longboat, 2.45, 05 2/5 over a distance of 26 m. 385 yds.) and Longboat vs. Dorando (Longboat in 3.03, 31 2/5 over a distance of 25 miles).[11]

In the meantime, Longboat's success started a fad for racing among Indians. "Several around that time appeared shyly at county fairs and after a few wins, went on to bigger meets." Fred Simpson, an Ojibway from Hiawatha, Ontario, cam sixth in the 1908 Olympics Marathon and in the same race Louis Tewanina from Arizona came ninth. Tewanina also ran second in the Olympic ten thousand metres in both 1908 and 1912. Others included Henry Jackson, or Red Hawk, of Penetang, Ontario, Black Hawk of Philadelphia, Andrew Sockalexis of Oldtown, Me. -- third in the 1912 Olympic Marathon -- A. Jameson of Woodstock, Ontario, Jimmy George of Beaverton, Ontario, Albert Smoke, Silas Isaac or Little Thunder from the Six Nations and Hilton Green, a Mohawk.[12]

In the west were Alex Decouteau, Gilbert Wuttunee, Mooswa, Jim Big Throat, Phil Mistaken Chief, Jim Shot Both Sides, Henry Cochrane (Blackwater), Fred Red Crow, Steve Mistaken Chief, Randy Ayoungman, Horace Big Throat, and Rufus Goodstriker.[13] Indians were

to running what Negroes today are to boxing (and football). But their reputation as natural runners goes back well into history. In the days before the telegraph it is said that they were employed by business men to rush news of commercial interest from newly arrived ships, sometimes over distances of a hundred miles or more.[14] It is evident then that Longboat was a model for many Indian athletes in the early days of Canadian sports history. Although it is not documented, it is certain that he still serves as a model for present day athletes.

Back to the professional era, Longboat and Shrubb were finally signed to run against each other on the 26th of January, 1909 in New York.[15] Shrubb who had been after the Indian for a race since 1907 was to finally get his chance and he was not slow to express his feelings about the match race.

> "I shall run Longboat off his legs," said Shrubb. "He will either have to follow me or let me go. If he follows me I will kill him in ten miles. If he lets me go, I shall have such a big lead on him that I shall win. I am fully aware that Longboat possesses wonderful endurance but I shall give him the most trouble he has ever had.[16]

Longboat likewise was probably very anxious to meet Shrubb. There was nothing left for him to conquer and this man had been after him throughout his amateur career with repeated challenges which he had had to decline in fear of jeopardizing his status for the Olympics. It is contended that this was Tom Longboat's peak in his athletic endeavors notwithstanding all his previous winnings. Alfred Shrubb was the recognized world champion long distance runner as a professional and had several records to substantiate this recognition.

> He spent more than half his life in Canada and the U.S.A., much of it at a time when he held every record for distance between two and ten miles.[17]

The final agreement to meet in a matched race was one of ten that Longboat and Shrubb were to run against each other. True to form, the colorful lead up to the race was reported almost daily in the newspapers. An example is the following which appeared on January 12, 1909 in the Brantford Courier:

> Shrubb for ten miles at least is undoubtedly the fastest man in the world. He possesses remarkable endurance and phenomenal sprinting ability...if the Indian cannot keep pace with Shrubb in the first 12 miles and the latter is able to gain a lap it is generally believed that Longboat will suffer a defeat...
>
> The Indian, however, expressed perfect confidence in his ability to defeat Shrubb explaining that he did not believe he could stick the 26 miles. He believed that the Longboat-Shrubb race will be one of the heaviest betting races that have taken place in years.[18]

It would appear that some writers were taking advantage of Longboat's misfortunes to attack the Indian race generally. The exact relations between Indians and whites of Longboat's era is not determined, however, from writings such as the above quoted article, it could be inferred that Longboat was again being exploited for someone else's benefits and attacks.

There was additional flare when Shrubb threatened to pull out of the match unless he received $5,000. The meet was however declared on as both Longboat and Shrubb agree to divide a percentage of the gate receipts equally. The original agreement had been based on a stipulated amount for each runner.[19]

It is interesting to note that Shrubb at the outset had indicated that he did not fancy Longboat's manager, Tom Flanagan, being at the track side. Shrubb openly declared that there would only be two men on the track; furthermore, each was to be restricted to the attention of his trainers.[20]

He also tried to have a clause inserted (in his contract) which would have barred Tom Flanagan from the track during the race. He failed in this and Flanagan was permitted to be at the trackside.[21]

An article regarding Longboat's condition also appeared in the January 15th Toronto Globe. It is questionable whether a similar article appearing today would go without a lawsuit.

> The change of Tom Longboat's condition from being a charge of a man who knew him and could get out of him the best he had, to the control of those who have no further interest in him than as a gate money attraction puts a different aspect on his approaching race with Shrubb. Longboat trained should beat Shrubb at any distance from one to fifty, and the greater the distance, the better the Indian's chances. He can outrun and outstay Shrubb as he did the opponents he had already met but he can't do either unless fit. It is the matter of condition that forms the only element of doubt where Longboat is concerned. He has all the waywardness and lack of responsibility that are characteristics of his race and those things render it exceedingly difficult for his trainer.[22]

Another questionable report appeared on the following day in the same journal. However, the event occurred in New York where Longboat had arrived for his personal greatest challenge. The incident was his supposed apprehension of James Smith, a Negro, who was charged with trying to steal a coat from a local tailor shop. The Indian marathon runner was reported to have given "a public exhibition without charge"

in running after the then suspect and bringing him into the hands of the police.[23] Whether this was an actual occurrence is not questioned but whether it was a publicity stunt by management is another query.

All this build up prior to the race certainly succeeded in attracting attention to the event. On the January 22nd meeting to select officials for the race in New York, Tim Hurst was named as referee with T. McCaffrey and J. P. Fitzgerald of Toronto, Longboat's timer and scorer. As well, Lou Marsh and Tom Flanagan were to be the Indian's confidentials. The latter, however, refused to act in this capacity.

> I am through with Tom Longboat, he declared. I would give a finger to have him beat Shrubb for Canada's sake, but I'll not be on the track or have anything to do with him personally. He can win if he is right and I know it but I am out of the Indian's game for good.[24]

It is questionable whether this was merely another of Flanagan's advertising gimmicks or whether it was an expression of the manager's frustrations at the reputed habit of Longboat not liking to train at anytime for races.

An indication of the interest and fan support this race generated will illustrate the command that the Indian runner had of the sporting public and also the enthusiasm which attended professional running during this era of sports history in North America.

> "The Garden will be besieged by the crowd that night but you tell Toronto people that I will protect them," said P. T. Powers, who is in charge of the arrangements. "I have reserved a block of two and three dollar seats for Toronto people and will keep them here in my office until noon on Tuesday. They will be

> sold at regular prices, no advance. I had several wires and requests from Toronto men asking that a block of tickets be sent to them but I have refused absolutely in order to protect Torontonians from speculators."[25]

A subsequent New York article appeared indicating a record crowd could be expected for the Marathon meet. Orders for seats had been received from many places in the country including Boston, Chicago, Illinois, and Philadelphia. It was also conceded that the winner of the match race would be the rightful champion long distance runner of the world. Shrubb had reportedly been offered a 20 week tour in English music halls at $1000 per week should he win. Longboat himself was a big favorite; although he was not offered a tour, there was sufficient enthusiasm to follow him at the trackside. "Two special trains from Toronto and Buffalo" were to arrive in New York on the Tuesday prior to the race.[26]

After all this tremendous stage setting the race was postponed until February 5th at the request of the Englishman, who claimed to have a sore toe. The trouble had developed from a blister. This, of course, gave an opportunity for Tom Flanagan to take a shot at Shrubb.

> Papers may have it that his toe or leg has gone back on him but the truth remains that the undertaking was too great for him and that he has completely broken down.[27]

Although no race had been arranged to replace the scheduled meet, Dorando Pietri expressed interest from Chicago in a three man race to include Longboat declaring that "races with only two men contesting had too many possibilities of disappointment to the spectators."[28]

The offer was not immediately picked up. Instead, Longboat ran a ten mile race at the Essex Troup Armory in Newark, N.J. against a relay of Bob Hallen and Mike Spring each of whom ran five miles. In losing by a lap in the time of 58.49, Longboat's performance did not please the crowd and his apparent disinclination to exert himself was the chief cause.[29]

This naturally gave critics the necessary matter to indicate that the postponement was no misfortune for Tom but instead "Twas lucky for Longboat." It was apparent that Longboat, now training under Jimmy DeForest, was not in condition and the delay considered to be greatly to his advantage.[30]

> Training Longboat has been found by his new management to be no easy or ordinary task. DeForest, who has him in charge for P. T. Powers, is experienced in the matter of conditioning men for supreme physical efforts and if Longboat would scrupulously submit himself to DeForest's rule and regime, he would undoubtedly be turned out fit to show the best that is in him. But, the man who is going to make a success of training Longboat must be a diplomat and a manager as well as a conditioner. Regulations and instructions have no value when not followed and the difficulty with Longboat has always been to get him to do as his mentor wanted. The Indian prefers to follow his own way which is not conducive to the best results and he never had any liking for the discipline, restraint and strenuous work of training.[31]

What is more interesting is that Tom Flanagan, former manager, reverses decisions completely. Having formerly criticized Shrubb he now favored him and was quoted.

> Shrubb will beat Longboat and beat him badly when they meet, if Shrubb does not have another

> accident. I know the Indian and I know Shrubb and Shrubb will conquer him as sure as you stand on two feet, always barring accidents. He has too much speed and condition.[32]

It seemed that the cards kept stacking up against the "Bronze Mercury" as evidenced by a letter written to a Toronto friend indicating he was "down and out as far as running the Marathon...He is in ill health and should not be forced to go to the track with Shrubb on February 5th." The Indian waited for Shrubb and it was fortunate that he did but his condition had been growing steadily worse. The letter from Longboat says in part:

> I am not in shape for this race. My old trouble, lumbago and rheumatism of the knees has come back on me and I am all in. I don't think I can run fifteen miles. I think this next race will put me out of business. I have been afraid to train hard for this race, because I was afraid the old trouble would come back. I wouldn't bet on me if I were you, for I am no good for anything. I can't run fifteen miles.[33]

Shrubb in the meantime according to Dr. S. M. Dixon of Montclair, who was training him, reported he was healed and in excellent condition.[34]

A later report from Montreal regarding a similar letter to Tim O'Rourke was printed as follows:

> Dear Tim, Don't bet on me. I guess this old Indian is all in, down and out. I'm sick. The same old sore back and bad knees. I can't train hard. They are at me here every day to run hard and get fast but I can't. I don't tell them -- only I won't run. I rest and will do my best but don't bet one cent on me. I don't think I can run fifteen miles. Tell all my friends what I write. Tom C. Longboat.[35]

The cloud surrounding Longboat's condition continued but interest was remounted for the race as the manner of running and the possible tactics to be employed by the runners was being conjectured.

> It may be that such a pace will be set as to result in compelling one or the other to give up before the distance in completed. Longboat is such a prodigy as a runner that it is almost impossible to forecast his performance and he will either run a very good or a very bad one.[36]

Shrubb was reported as "fully recovered from the injury to his toe and would have no excuses to offer, in fact he said very emphatically that there would not be any necessity for excuses as he believed he would win."[37] Longboat also was apparently better and with new confidence as he ran a fifteen mile exhibition in Washington against four local runners whom he outdistanced by a mile and a half with a time of one hour, 24 minutes and 30 seconds.[38] In fact, another letter to relatives in Deseronto indicated his confidence.

> Mr. Bert Maracle received a letter from Tom Longboat in which the Indian stated he is training hard and doing fine under the management of his new trainer, DeForest. He says he is in the pink of condition and will run the race of his life against Alf Shrubb, the English champion on February 5th. Tom says he is confident of winning.[39]

It is queried

> How is one to reconcile the undoubted facts that a Longboat letter to Toronto says he is beaten before he starts against Shrubb on Friday while a letter from the same quarter to relatives in Deseronto declares him a sure winner? Is the Indian furnished with the real information and white man misled? They just can't be reconciled and one can only remember that the ways of the

paleface are not those of the redman.[40]

The resurgence of interest again favored Shrubb slightly, nevertheless "two special trains from Canada" were to bring a regiment of enthusiasts to root for Longboat.[41]

Finally, the long awaited Marathon probably the greatest matched race in the early history of sports Canada was scheduled to begin a 9 p.m.[42] with betting at evens.[43]

> The outlook is for another great crowd and the police are preparing for it. Inspector McCluskey will have 150 men at the Garden at six o'clock and will send 50 more every hour up till 9 o'clock.[44]

This event, it is contended, was the climax of the famous Indian's career since the Boston Marathon victory in view of the turmoil accompanying his fabulour career. Prior to the race, the following comparison of the physical make-up of each runner had been compiled and subsequently published.

Alfred Shrubb

Nationality - English
Age - 26 years
Weight - 136 lbs.
Height - 5 ft. 7 in.
Stride - 5 ft. 2 in.
Shrubb's best performance - five miles 24 m. 33 2/5 sec. 10 miles - 50 m., 40 s. Jan. 16, 1908. Defeated five men in relay at Boston, ten miles. Time: 51 mins. 33 2/5 sec. November, 1907, best relay of Tom Meyers, Sam Williams and Frank Kanaly, ten miles. Time: 52 m.

Tom Longboat

Nationality - Canadian Indian
Age - 20 years
Weight - 145 lbs.
Height - 5 ft. 11 in.
Stride - 6 ft. 6 in.

> Longboat's best performance - Won Boston Marathon race last year establishing a record of 2 h. 24 m. 24 s. for 25 miles. Won three J. J. Ward Marathons. 15 miles: in 1906 in 1 hr. 31 m. 15 2/5 s.; 20 miles in 1907 (distance doubtful) in 1 h. 41 m. and 40 s. and 19 1/2 miles last year in 1 h. 51 m. and 29 s.; defeated Dorando in regular Marathon distance in Madison Square Garden and at Buffalo.[45]

As it happened, Shrubb, running with the Union Jack on the breast of his red jersey, had set a terrific early pace. The two men battled it out before 12,000 New Yorkers who crowded the Madison Square Garden. In the accounts of this fantastic race, each lap added to Shrubb's lead was vividly reported with lap times. An example is the following two exerpts:

> At eight miles Shrubb again opened up, but the orders to the Indian were still to wait. Dr. Dixon was now preparing to change Shrubb's shoes and made the suggestion to the runner. He would not agree to it then, but continued increasing his lead till he had another lap advantage, four now, at nine miles, still the Indian let him go unheeded, and in the next twelve laps, Shrubb made it another. With five laps advantage in ten miles, he was now half a mile to the good, running nicely and making up some more. At eleven miles and a half, Shrubb was six laps ahead. Nobody had ever done this before to the Indian but he played his own game. At half the entire distance he was more than six laps to the bad but he showed no signs of distress and said nothing to his advisors...
>
> After fourteen miles the Indian stepped out and Shrubb slowed. Longboat was up on his toes now and the crowd got up too and nearly raised the roof as the Canadian was for the first time showing more speed than his opponent. Here was where the race began but Shrubb was still there and showed no signs of weakening. On the contrary, he closed the gap and ran stride for stride on Longboat's heels. At the sixteenth mile he essayed to go to the front. Longboat raced with him for half a lap but Shrubb went by and away.[46]

In spite of earlier inferences that Flanagan may have been a questionable manager at times, he did do some flamboyant things which added a psychological factor in the Indian's favor. An example is the account on Mrs. Longboat at trackside:

> About five and a half miles remained to finish the race and Tom Flanagan appeared on the track with Mrs. Longboat to urge the champion to his best effort. The Indian responded and Shrubb showed his first signs of distress. He came down to a walk for a half a lap but at Dr. Dixon's urging he broke into a run again. Though plainly in trouble, he still had half a mile of lead, and there was a stern chase before the Indian. Tom Flanagan was now running wildly down the track in his short sleeves and the men hooked up for another sprint. Shrubb won it but it did not look like a good policy and Tom Sinnot persuaded him to ease up.
>
> Shrubb now came down to a walk again for nearly a lap. Then he ran a couple of laps and walked again. Now Longboat was within four laps of him and both men were frantically urged by their representatives while the 12,000 people in the Garden made the place a bedlam.
>
> Gamely as Shrubb struggled he could not stick at running and once more he dropped down to a weary walk, while Longboat reduced the lead to two laps. Then he ran again, trailing the Indian. Twenty-three and a half miles had been covered now and they jogged together for a couple of laps when Shrubb was once more walking. He refused any stimulant and staggered along while Longboat cut off another lap, still going at a smart trot. At 24 miles and a half Shrubb's lead was gone and he staggered into his attendant's arms as Longboat went by them half a lap ahead. It was all over now and Shrubb wearily asked Dr. Dixon to take him away.
>
> Longboat stuck to his jog trot, having worn down one of the best and gamest runners in the world. He finished alone amid the greatest excitement that ever marked a contest in the Garden.[47]

Longboat had run this race at his own pace although at one point he was nearly a mile behind the Englishman. Nevertheless, it was Flanagan who was to receive the credit.

> With but about two miles to go the climax came and one of the most sensational races ever seen here ended in Shrubb's collapse when victory was almost within his reach. The distance was Longboat's game and he is a champion at it. "You can give the credit for the way the race was run to Tom Flanagan," said Pat Powers at the close. "I thought and we all thought that he should stay closer to Shrubb but Flanagan said we should let him run at a pace that he could finish at and that would beat Shrubb.[48]

Tom Longboat had proven he was master of the world in long distance running. He had done what he wanted to do although some said he was not in condition when he ran the race and was lucky the meet was postponed. However, more excuses were offered as to why Shrubb had lost: smoke, heat, he was really a shorter distance runner, his management was questioned because it was felt he shouldn't have tried to run so fast for the first twenty miles, he trained too hard and so on.[49]

This race was a tremendous boost for the businessmen of the day because challenges were issued by runners from all parts of North America wanting to race the Indian. Matt Mahoney, the best U. S. Amateur Marathon runner, sent a resignation letter to President Sullivan of the A.A.U. and challenged Tom publicly in the newspaper, The Sun, to a race for $2,500 to $5,000 a side. Johnny Hayes, the Olympic Marathon winner was also anxious to run.[50] Another Indian runner who was quietly building a reputation, Fred Simpson, wanted to go any distance from ten miles to the marathon with any of the professionals.[51] William Sherring

of Hamilton, the 1906 Olympic Marathon gold medal winner was also reputed to be the next opponent.[52] With these challenges and public interest, time was ripe to make money in promoting races, at any distance. Shrubb and Longboat captivated audiences all over by their performances and were by far the two superstars of their day.

Longboat, although with a considerable following, may have gained new fans by defeating Shrubb as thousands turned up in Toronto to welcome him at the Union Station and at the Stadium. However, he didn't show as he had decided to remain in New York with his wife.[53]

New disputes developed following the Longboat-Shrubb victory. The focus was apparently a contract agreement between the two runners. Shrubb claimed that he had agreed to run Longboat at the Marathon distance if the Indian would agree to run a subsequent race at fifteen miles.[54] A new event was to begin which illustrated the heights professional running reached in early sports history of North America.

Unfortunately, Tom Longboat began to slide after this victory over Shrubb, and although he was to win more races, he had peaked in his career at a very young age of 21. The Indian runner continued to confront management, but now he was giving reasons and these reflect somewhat on the type of management he was receiving.

Prior to the Shrubb-Longboat race, Tom Flanagan had quit as his manager. Longboat trained under Jimmy DeForest for Pat Powers who had bought his contract from Flanagan. Flanagan, complaining later about the trouble Longboat gave him, said

> He was all right until he started to make money. There were times when he did not feel like running, when he refused to train properly and just generally went prima donna on me.[55]

Longboat, however, had his own counters about Flanagan after his contract was sold to Powers for "two thousand dollars". He complained to his wife, "He sold me just like a race horse to make money."[56] Once Flanagan had made his maximum financial gain with Longboat he discarded him to move into the same racket with other athletes like boxers whom he frequently handled likewise.

Longboat was unsatisfied and he was also becoming more outspoken as he indicated after his managers had decided to accept the offer of a $7,500 price for a fifteen mile race in Buffalo on February 25th with Shrubb.[57] Shrubb had been training but Longboat on the other hand, wanted to rest and did not want to run so quickly again. Instead he expressed desire to train properly. He thus went back to Desoronto where he was to be given a great reception. He spent time relaxing and attending hockey matches.[58] Several attempts were made by his management to make him run against Shrubb for fifteen miles on February 25th. Longboat continued to insist on a rest and as a consequence did no training whatsoever. Shrubb, in the meantime, was parading around expressing his confidence at various functions that he could beat the Indian:

> I am sure I can. That is my distance. I never wanted to run twenty-six miles, and will never do it again. I am confident enough of my ability to beat the Indian to wager $2,000 on my chances.[59]

Flanagan, although he had sold Longboat, tried to intercede in the affair on behalf of Pat Powers and Harry Pollok. This only served to make Longboat more adamant and irate enough to say

> I do not like the idea of doing all the work and somebody else getting the credit for winning

> my victories. Do you think that Flanagan could make me run if I do not want to? Flanagan was not with me when I established the 25 mile world's record at Boston. I can get along without their assistance and if any of these runners want to race me they will have to make arrangements with me and no one else.[60]

When questioned whether he thought he could beat Shrubb at fifteen miles he replied,

> Yes, I can beat him at his own game. I have not decided as yet about the future. These men think I am a running machine, and (that) they can make me run as often as they like without giving me time to get into condition. I have got to have time to train for these races and I think I can do better my managing my own affairs. At any rate I am going to take a rest, and will be in the best condition before I run again. I am not doing any training now and I think a rest will do me a world of good.[61]

Longboat apparently meant business as he did not want to run in Buffalo until he was satisfied with his physical condition. Shrubb, from Toronto, reported that

> He (Shrubb) thinks Longboat has come to the conclusion that he does not need a manager and that he can look after his own affairs without the assistance of one, who takes one-half of his earnings.[62]

The battle teetered back and forth with Pollock not succeeding in persuading Longboat to run.

Flanagan and Pollok met with Longboat but found that nothing could induce him to run unless he got $5,000 in advance,[63] and Dorando had to be substituted in the run against Shrubb. The promoters, disappointed and disgruntled, refused to accept Dorando or any other substitute for Longboat and called the race off.[64] Longboat finally withdrew

his ultimatum of $5,000 or no race and agreed to go to Buffalo but demanded that $2,500 be deposited to his credit in a Hamilton bank before he left. The promoters had agreed to the amount but balked at the idea of depositing the sum before the race and thus declared the meet off.[65]

This occurrence of events made Longboat's manager, Pat Powers, disgusted and said he had a notion to keep Longboat in a position in which he could cool his heels for a year as he controlled most of the Pro Marathon situation.[66] This threat to keep Tom off the tracks was of no avail so the managers tried a different prod. Powers went to Ottawa to the Indian Department headquarters to validate Longboat's contract. The Department recognized the justice of his case meaning Longboat would have to fulfill the contract he willingly made with Powers.

> He cannot run any races in Canada or elsewhere except according to the provisions of his contract with Mr. Powers as manager.[67]

Contract disputes between management and professional athletes was apparently no different as it is now with current hockey disputes. In any case, it was reported earlier that Bert Maracle, Tom's brother-in-law was to be his manager for the future.[68] A later rumor indicated a possible reunion between Flanagan and Longboat, as Mrs. Longboat had apparently made a remark to the effect that she was sorry her husband had quit Flanagan.[69]

The issue of whether Longboat's contract was binding was later reported in the affirmative as Mr. Frank Pedley, deputy superintendent-general of Indian Affairs was interviewed in Ottawa.

> "The power of an Indian to make a contract," said Mr. Pedley, "depends upon the subject matter of the contract...as to his personal services and the like he is free to make any bargain he pleases." Asked if the Indian Department had made a ruling that Tom Longboat was bound by his contract with Powers, Mr. Pedley said, "We make no ruling. I told Mr. Powers, as I am telling you, that the enforcement of his contract with Longboat was a matter for the courts, if he cared to appeal to them. I did not say, however, that I did not think that the fact of Longboat's being an Indian could or would affect his legal rights one way or the other..."[70]

The end result was that the Indian was to either run Alf Shrubb at fifteen miles or quit the running game. When the Indian repudiated the agreement to give Shrubb a return match at the Englishman's favorite distance, he did so on the grounds that in Canada a contract with an Indian is not binding. However, as reported above this was not so.[71]

Prior to this secondary turmoil in Longboat's athletic career Powers had organized the most spectacular of all marathons set for March 17th matching the four big athletes. Alf Shrubb, Tom Longboat, Johnny Hayes and Dorando Pietri were to race a marathon in the Madison Square Garden.[72] This was later declared off with the comment that it was to be run at the Polo Grounds instead at a later date.[73] April 3rd was the new date for the "Marathon Derby" which was to be run in the open at the New York baseball grounds.[74] Longboat finally agreed to go to Hamilton and put himself into regular training, under the care of Bill Davis, the Indian, who was Longboat's first handler.[75] Arriving in Toronto he announced,

> I feel better now than in months, those three marathons in two months had me stale, but my

> rest at Desoronto, Caledonia and finally at Preston Springs had done me a world of good and I expect to begin work right away in preparation for the Marathon Derby...[76]

Inconsistent management continued as Mike Flanagan, Tom Flanagan's brother was appointed to have charge of the Onondaga's preparation for the Marathon Derby (presumably by Pat Powers). The rest, although beneficial, put weight on Longboat and much hard work was necessary for the Indian to get into condition for a $10,000 race against the world's best marathoners.[77]

The question now was whether Tom would be really fit by race time. Two weeks was hardly enough time after his long rest. Yet, early reports had him and Dorando Pietri as favorites.[78]

Five invitational entries were announced as accepted for the Marathon Derby.

> These five include Tom Longboat, the Indian who has twice defeated Dorando and has a victory over Shrubb to his credit, Johnny Hayes the Olympic Marathon winner, who since has been beaten twice by Dorando, Alfred Shrubb, the great English professional, Henry St. Yves, the French runner who has just arrived in this country and who it is claimed has never been beaten, and Dorando Pietri, the Italian, who finished first in the Olympic Marathon only to be disqualified.[79]

Although Longboat had agreed to come back to running, no sonner had he done so than his managers announced another contract. Perhaps management, had they concentrated on one race at a time, would have had less trouble with their runner. While odds on the runners were appearing in the paper for the Marathon Derby, a challenge to the winner of the Shrubb and Simpson race was being issued before the race

for all who were there to hear.[80] At the same time the race between these runners now slated for Rosedale was announced for April 17th.[81] An article of interest appeared subsequently from the Ottawa Journal,

> "I went far outside my distance," said Shrubb, "to meet Longboat on condition that he would race me at my distance. Now he has signed to run fifteen miles against me in Toronto on April 17th. I believe that if Longboat is left alone he will keep his word. Now, I will not mention any names, but if he fails to keep his contract, it will be because someone else has interfered."[82]

Later Shrubb in announcing that the upcoming race was the last Marathon he would ever run also said

> If Flanagan gets on the track at the Polo Grounds at New York next Friday and attempts any of the unfair tactics he worked on me in my race with Longboat, I'll stop the race.[83]

The little fellow was angry and declared emphatically that he was compelled to run half a dozen men in Madison Square Garden instead of Longboat alone. "But it will not happen again, mark my words, there will be a riot if any work of that kind takes place."[84] Perhaps reference was being made to the Flanagan touch obvious among the 12,000 people in the Garden. Among them in a box seat were Mrs. Longboat and two Indian chiefs, in full feathered regalia and a "mountie" in uniform.[85]

Tom Flanagan had somehow turned up as Longboat's charge again, notwithstanding that he had sold his contract to Pat Powers.[86] "Matt Maloney who is credited with holding the world's record for Marathon outdoors..."[87] was now also entered in the Derby.

A reference to the training styles of each runner reflects the technique of early day athletes as each competitor for the Derby ended their hard training differently.

> Each of the sextet will have as a final workout a long jog ranging from 12 to 20 miles... the men will confine their efforts to long walks until the time set for the contest.[88]

This was four days prior to the big race, reported as one to

> ...draw the largest crowd that ever witnessed the full running of the Marathon race in this country. The Polo Grounds sit 35,000 people this season, because of a recent extension of the bleachers to completely surround the field.[89]

The Brantford Courier in printing photos of the world's six greatest runners informed that it had arranged for a bulletin service of the race, and that the bulletins would be posted from time to time or subscribers could phone in for reports.[90] Longboat continued to be the favorite at 8 to 5 with Dorando next until race time.[91] Wagers of $500 at even money were reported for Longboat to defeat Shrubb again.[92]

The Marathon Derby ended up as an international match, and sporting elements of the various nationalities of cosmopolitan New York were expected to turn out in great numbers to cheer their favorites. Johnny Hayes, Olympic winner at London, responsible for much of the American Marathon craze, was to represent the United States. Shrubb, the speedy Briton, was to wear the Union Jack; Tom Longboat, the Onondaga Indian, the Maple Leaf of Canada; Dorando Pietri, the baker of Capri, was to represent Italy. Matthew Maloney was to wear Ireland's Emerald while Henri St. Yves, the tri-color of France.

> The prize the men will contest for is $10,000 in cash, divided into four purses of $5,000, $2,500, $1,500 and $1,000. This is the richest purse ever hung up for a similar event in this or any other country and will spur every man on to his best efforts. The pear-shaped track on grass turf was five laps to the mile. The stands will set 40,000 people and that every seat will be taken, if the weather is kind, has been indicated by the public interest in the contest. Many out-of-town people are already in town, and the lobbies last night held groups of them animatedly discussing the weather and race possibilities...[93]

The Frenchman, Henry St. Yves, subsequently won the greatest international Marathon Derby for professional runners amid showers, before 30,000 persons, winning the $5,000 for 2 hrs. 40 min. 50 3/4 sec. of running. Second was Dorando Pietri for $2,500 in 2.45.37. Third was J. J. Hayes for $1,500 in 2.49.27. Fourth was Matt Maloney for $1,000. But where were Shrubb and Longboat? Longboat quit the track at the nineteenth mile and Shrubb gave up in the 25th mile. "Both were completely exhausted trying to keep the terrific pace set by the Frenchman."[94] An account of the race continues:

> Shrubb made a game struggle from the twentieth mile to the twenty-fifth, but the pace was too fast and the distance too long for him.
>
> St. Yves, the almost unknown, who figured but little in the forecasts of the race, covered the Marathon distance 26 miles, 385 yards in 2 hours, 40 minutes, 50 3/5 seconds, a remarkable performance under the conditions, and finished with a fast sprint in good condition. Dorando was four minutes, forty-seven and three fifth seconds behind the Frenchman, while Hayes, the third man, followed the Italian across the finishing line three minutes and fifty seconds later. No time was taken on Maloney the fourth man. St. Yves took down $5,000 of the prize money, Dorando $2,000, Hayes $1,500 and Maloney $1,000. Shrubb and Longboat go unrewarded for their brave efforts.

Those are the net results of the greatest Marathon ever run in America, and except in point of number of contestants, the greatest every run anywhere. Six of the best distance runner in the world, competing for a small fortune in prizes, called out a crowd that packed the newly arranged stands of the Polo Grounds to the point of standing room. The day was apparently not pleasant for any outdoor function, but the 30,000 spectators, or at least a large majority sitting on the bleachers spread umbrellas against the mild April showers that fell during the first hour of the race, or took the moisture in good spirits without lessening their enthusiasm.[95]

Longboat had dropped out of the race after seventeen miles while Shrubb could not finish twenty-six miles and staggered to his dressing room exhausted after twenty-five miles.[96] The Indian was criticized for his lack of completion.

> His future as a runner depends on whether he has gumption enough to realize what happened. His talk did not indicate that he sees the handwriting on the walls. To a friend, who was giving him advice, when he really needed sympathy, his answer was: 'Oh, it makes me tired to hear about my condition. I was in good condition, all right.' It is said that the report that Longboat was guaranteed a round sum for his appearance is not correct, and he gets nothing except what allowance the generosity of Pat Powers makes him. The story goes that when he was offered appearance money he preferred to take his chances of winning the five thousand dollars that went to the first man, on conditions that he did not have to share it with Powers as arranged under his contract. The result is that he is entitled to nothing which shows how good a manager he is when left to his own devices and how poor a judge of his own condition.[97]

The first question after the Marathon Derby was: "Has

Longboat's Sun Set?" Lou Marsh, wiring from New York, stated...

> The Onondaga hasn't got it left in him. He had it once but he hasn't got it now and I seriously doubt if he will ever get it again. I think his sun has set.
>
> 'Why was Tom Longboat beaten?'
>
> The greatest factor in his defeat was his swelled head. With his cranium enlarged by several victories, which his common sense should have told him were sheerest luck, he thought he could neglect even the rudimentary rules of training and defeat any man in the world. He laughed at his friends when they told him to train and went into that race with those training stunts under his belt, all taken during two weeks before the race -- a four mile run when young Carlton held him; a six and a half mile run where Perry Selten defeated him by 2:40; a ten mile run where both George Black and Red Hawk beat him and an hour and a half run all in Toronto; and a ten and a fifteen mile workout in New York. There were other contributory features to the Indian's abject defeat but lack of condition -- shortness -- was the real cause. 98

The illustrious career continued but with decreasing success. Nevertheless Tom Longboat was to come back for one final record run. Had Longboat retired after his victory over Shrubb he would have gone out in grand style: as a winner at twenty-one. Instead, on a Saturday afternoon, May 8th Longboat and Shrubb met again; this time in a fifteen mile outdoor race sponsored by the Montreal Star on the cinder track of the newly opened Montreal Amateur Athletic Association grounds. The distance was more to Shrubb's liking than the marathon. He won by about five hundred yards. Longboat went to Shrubb with his big grin and a handshake and spoke the words that became habit between them: 99
"You beat me, but I beat you next time."

Powers sold Longboat's contract to Sol Mintz of Hamilton for seven hundred dollars -- the price was an indication of Longboat's falling stock -- and Mintz immediately arranged for a twenty mile race between the two rivals to be held on the Toronto Island track on June 28.

At the gun, Shrubb set out and dragged Longboat for a mile in 4.38 the fastest mile in an American long distance race since the Marathon craze hit the continent. Longboat dropped back after this but at the fourteenth mile began a sprint that left Shrubb limping. In the fifteenth mile Shrubb quit and Longboat finished alone.

The Indian was now one up. But the score was soon tilted in Shrubb's favor because he would not run the longer distances and was Longboat's superior under twenty miles. He won a twelve mile bout in Toronto and at sixteen miles in Winnipeg. The Winnipeg race gave the rubber of five races to Shrubb.

Longboat had become his own manager and neglected training. A sports editor wrote: "He may dawdle along beating duds, but any good man will take his measure, now." Tales of his drinking became legendary.[100]

During the next three years Shrubb beat Longboat at ten and fifteen miles in Boston, at twelve in Toronto, fifteen in Pittsburgh, ten in Stratford.[101] In the terrific battles raged between these two runners, the Indian had won the three races at 20 or more miles but Shrubb was the victor seven times at distances from ten to sixteen miles.[102]

Longboat had one more return to glory before he faded from the spotlight as the world's best long distance runner. On June 8, 1912

he ran a fifteen mile race on Toronto Island against Shrubb, A. E. Wood, and Bill Queal, holder of the American ten and twelve mile records. They were billed as "the speediest quartette living." Shrubb who had sprained his ankle, was forced to quit after leading for five miles. Longboat won by about a foot and set a new record of one hour, eighteen minutes, 10 2/5 seconds, five seconds better than the previous mark set by Wood. Later it was claimed the Island track was short, but England's Sporting Chronicle Annual still shows Longboat's time made that day as the record for the professional fifteen mile distance.[103]

A file on Longboat from the records of the Indian Affairs Branch also lists a run of one hour, twenty minutes, four seconds as a new world record in winning the 1912, 15 mile Powder Hall Marathon in Edinborough, Scotland.[104]

Longboat was to run more races after joining the 180th Sportsmen's Battalion as a private when World War I broke out. In February 1917 he finished third in a six mile run at Woodford Green in England against a field of 105 servicemen.[105]

It is difficult to estimate exactly how much money Longboat won as a professional. One source has it that he earned about $17,000.[106] Another states he earned a fortune.[107] "Shrubb's regular fee was said to be $3,000 if he won and $2,000 if he lost."[108] In the Marathon Derby report Dorando Pietri was listed as having

> ...no managers, trainers, advisors and boasters and Longboat is his master, but, in a given period he makes three times as much money out of the business as does the Indian.[109]

The writer was very deeply honored to be able to visit with

Mr. Tom Longboat's family briefly on Sunday, June 7, 1970. When so much admiration and awe had been developed through research of the historic accounts of this great Indian, words cannot express what one feels in walking on the soil on which he ran, and in sitting with his family. The author will return for another visit in the very near future as there is a desire to know more of this man, and this time it is the intention that Indian tradition be followed. The pipe and tobacco will be offered first. In the sunny day of June, accompanied by Mr. David Prokop of London, Ontario a long distance runner who has run at Boston several times,[110] the writer was very proud to be able to touch the fantastic trophy, a Bronze Mercury, that Tom Longboat had won in the 1907 Boston Marathon. Sitting in her home was Mrs. Martha Longboat, sharing a day with her children: Tom Longboat, Jr., Mr. Ted Longboat, and Mrs. Phyllis Winnie. The latter is now residing in Buffalo, N.Y.

In talking with the family Ted mentioned one race where Longboat's shoes were forgotten, and as a consequence of borrowing a pair he ended up with severe blisters during the race. He also accounted a time when he and his father Tom were standing outside their home and an Indian runner went by on a training jog. "He'll never make it," said Tom. Ted asked, "Why?" "He hasn't got the gait." (Everything has to be co-ordinated.) "He runs like a cow..." was the reply from the man who apparently could tell a natural runner in one glance.[111]

The family were very casual about their famous father and his phenomenal achievements. Tom himself "never spoke about his races" as related by his son Ted upon the author's question. He had been asked at various times by his sons to tell about some of his races. Perhaps

it is as well because anyone who had to go through what he did and achieved what he did, need not say anything. His records speak for him and it was not like Longboat or most Indians to talk about achievements. It may have necessitated critical analysis of management and comment on the other controversies, which he would, probably, rather not do.

FOOTNOTES

1. Cronin, Op. Cit., p. 38.
2. The Brantford Courier, Brantford, October 25, 1907.
3. Ibid., October 24, 1907.
4. Cronin, Op, Cit., p. 38.
5. Ibid.
6. The Brantford Courier, Brantford, January 4, 1909, p. 3.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
12. Cronin, Op. Cit., p. 39.
13. Personal Interview: Phil Mistaken Chief, December 1973 (Edmonton).
14. Cronin, Loc. Cit.
15. The Brantford Courier, Brantford, January 4, 1909.
16. Ibid., January 9, 1909.
17. Vernon Bale, "World Sports Magazine", (London: Country and Sporting Publication Ltd.) March 1907, Vol. 33, No. 3, p. 22.
18. Brantford Courier, January 12, 1909.
19. Ibid., January 14, 1909.
20. Ibid., January 9, 1909.
21. Ibid., January 14, 1909.
22. Ibid., January 15, 1909.
23. Ibid., January 16, 1909.
24. Ibid., January 22, 1909.

25. Ibid.
26. Ibid.
27. Ibid., January 25, 1909.
28. Ibid.
29. Ibid.
30. Ibid., January 26, 1909.
31. Ibid.
32. Ibid.
33. Ibid., January 29, 1909.
34. Ibid.
35. Ibid., January 30, 1909.
36. Ibid.
37. Ibid., February 1, 1909.
38. Ibid., p. 6.
39. Ibid., p. 4.
40. Ibid., February 2, 1909.
41. Ibid., February 3, 1909.
42. Ibid., February 5, 1909.
43. Ibid., p. 6.
44. Ibid.
45. The Brantford Courier, February 6, 1909.
46. Ibid.
47. Ibid.
48. Ibid.
49. Ibid., February 8, 1909.
50. Ibid.
51. Ibid., February 15, 1909.

52. Ibid., February 8, 1909.
53. Ibid.
54. Ibid., February 9, 1909.
55. Cronin, Op. Cit., p. 39.
56. Ibid.
57. The Brantford Courier, February 9, 1909.
58. Ibid., February 12, 1909.
59. Ibid., February 15, 1909.
60. Ibid.
61. Ibid.
62. Ibid., February 16, 1909.
63. Ibid., February 23, 1909.
64. Ibid., February 24, 1909.
65. Ibid.
66. Ibid.
67. Ibid., February 26, 1909.
68. Ibid., February 16, 1909.
69. Ibid., February 23, 1909.
70. Ibid., March 1, 1909.
71. Ibid., March 8, 1909.
72. Ibid., January 28, 1909.
73. Ibid., February 22, 1909.
74. Ibid., March 12, 1909.
75. Ibid.
76. Ibid., March 15, 1909.
77. Ibid., March 19, 1909.
78. Ibid.

79. Ibid., March 20, 1909.
80. Ibid., March 22, 1909.
81. Ibid.
82. Ibid., March 20, 1909.
83. Ibid.
84. Ibid., March 30, 1909.
85. Cronin, Op. Cit., p. 39.
86. The Brantford Courier, March 31, 1909.
87. Ibid.
88. Ibid.
89. Ibid., April 1, 1909.
90. Ibid., April 3, 1909.
91. Ibid., April 1 and April 2, 1909.
92. Ibid., April 3, 1909, p. 1.
93. Ibid., April 3, 1909, p. 8.
94. Ibid., April 5, 1909.
95. Ibid., p. 1 and 6.
96. Ibid.
97. Ibid.
98. Ibid., April 6, 1909.
99. Cronin, Op. Cit., p. 39 and The Canadian Annual Review 1909 Op. Cit., p. 319 (which lists date as May 9th).
100. Cronin, Op. Cit., p. 39.
101. Ibid.
102. Vernon Bale, Sports World Magazine, Op. Cit., p. 23.
103. Cronin, Op. Cit., p. 40.
104. Library File, Dept. of Indian Affairs, National Headquarters, Ottawa.

105. Ibid.

106. Cronin, Op. Cit., p. 40.

107. Davis, Mac., Op. Cit., p. 56.

108. Vernon Bale, Op. Cit., p. 23.

109. The Brantford Courier, Brantford: April 5, 1909, p. 1 and 6.

110. Personal visit to Six Nations Reservation in Brantford, Ontario.

111. Ibid.

CHAPTER VII

POST ATHLETIC LIFE

Perhaps it was because of his very controversial and illustrious running career that Tom Longboat was a key figure in the "Marathon craze" of North America. He contributed to the long distance "fad" of his time as people were encouraged to participate in the event for health and exercise.[1] However, his greatest yet probably most unnoticed contribution was that which he made to the total amateur sports development in Canada.

During the early career of Longboat the C.A.A.U. was apparently fighting a losing battle in trying to control amateurism during this period as William Stack described the Union as a "weak uninfluential body in 1906..."[2] A split later developed between the C.A.A.U. and the M.A.A.A., which had been a founding body of the C.A.A.U., giving birth to the Amateur Athletic Federation of Canada in February 1907.[3] This breaking away of A.A.F. of C. from the C.A.A.U. was not only an openly stated aim to usurp and implement the Union's role in Canadian sport, but one that resulted in a war between the two until after the 1908 Olympics.

The London Olympic Games of 1908 had a significant influence on the organization of Canadian amateur sport. These games were primarily responsible first for intensifying the feud between the C.A.A.U. and the A.A.F. of C. and second, for bringing the rival bodies together to form the amalgamated body of the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada. The rivalry had continued, and during the 1908 Olympics, Mr. Leslie Boyd of the A.A.F. of C. Executive lodged a protest concerning Longboat's

entry in the Marathon thus joining the American complaints.

> J. H. Crocker, Manager of the 1908 track and field team reported:
>
> 'On July 21, it was with considerable consternation that I was informed by the Secretary of the British Olympic Committee, that one of the members of the Canadian Honorary Committee was making a formal protest against Longboat. As soon as possible I saw Mr. Boyd and tried to dissuade him from following such a course. He maintained that the agreement asked for by the Canadian Olympic Committee between the C.A.A.U. and the Athletic Federation was at an end as soon as the trials were over and the team selected. Unable to influence Mr. Boyd I was forced to admit this to the British Olympic Committee, who insisted that the protest by made public which was accordingly published that evening.' This protest served only to destroy the A.A.F. of C. when the team returned from England as Longboat was allowed to compete.
>
> The Canadian Olympic Committee rescinded the agreement between the A.A.F. of C. and the C.A.A.U. and gave the latter organization a 'free hand in the future athletic policy of Canada.'

Thus following a four hour conference on September 6, 1909 in Ottawa

> ...it was resolved that the C.A.A.U. and the A.A.F. of C. amalgamate into an association called the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada, a national governing body of Canadian sport...[4]

Longboat, as the subject matter of these protests, was the single most important contributor to the amalgamation of the two sports organizations. This same amalgamated group presently functions under the name change of The Canadian Federation of Amateur Sports, a change which occurred in 1970. Without the Longboat controversy which high-

lighted the 1908 Olympics it is highly unlikely that the amalgamation would have occurred during Longboat's era.

The illustrious career of Tom Longboat amid the disputes over his status and management is now history. Although his victories were many, both as an amateur and later as a professional, it seemed the Indian was destined for tragedy.

Longboat was overseas for the last two years of the war. "As a brigade runner he was several times reported dead back home, but he came through unscathed..."[5] The war ended, but Longboat's troubles had only begun. He found that on one of the occasions that he had been reported dead, his wife had married another. So he too married another on his return, Martha Silversmith, a Cayuga, who bore him four children. He then drifted from job to job farming in Alberta, working in a steel mill in Buffalo, odd jobs anywhere and in 1922, now thirty-five, he returned penniless to Toronto and a job in a rubber plant.[6]

What became of the thousands of dollars Longboat won in his prime? In his first three years as a professional he earned about $17,000. When Flanagan was asked this question, he related:

> The same thing that happened to the money won by Joe Louis and Sugar Ray Robinson and the rest. Smart fellows show them how to double their money, and the smart fellows wind up with it all.

It is said "Longboat blew his money on liquor, fancy clothes and foolish investments in real estate. He had no idea how to handle it."[7] There are many accounts of how he liked to drink. The tragedy of Tom Longboat is not the lost races or money, the real tragedy is

that "nobody loves a drunken Indian." Stories of drinking episodes overshadowed his contributions to the sports world. It is true that he was a controversial athlete. It is perhaps likewise true he hated to train and would rather smoke and drink. But the question remains, who's fault was it?

It is hoped that this compilation of some of his races and accounts of some recorded happenings have given an indication of the other and truer side of the Indian. He was a very courageous man and one with great self-discipline. He must have been to have been able to sacrifice himself personally in what may have been a one man battle against the non-Indian world. Most reports always mention he died a bum. He was not a bum, he was a quiet winner, giving everyone a chance to beat him.

In an article in the Globe and Mail on Thursday, February 10, 1972, Dick Beddoes, writing about the Sapporo Olympics and the first native Canadians (Eskimo) in the Olympics of significance since Tom Longboat, stated "Natives can't win." However, it is what he wrote about Rose Allen that was important.

> "We've been played up," Rose said, "but no matter what we do in the Olympics, it won't do much for the people at home. Nothing will happen to make things better for them."[8]

How many gold medals will it take to improve the social situation of Indian people? This may have been likewise for Tom, a man who loved to run and ran everywhere under the Maple Leaf of Canada, Had he won in 1908, would it have made things better for Canadian Indians or for himself?

> His last race was against Shrubb at the Canadian National Exhibition in 1930... Longboat became a mail carrier in Buffalo, N.Y. and in 1946 found he had diabetes. He was treated for awhile at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto but soon went back to his reserve. 'It was too lonely there' he told his wife Martha. On January 9th, 1949 he died and was buried on the reservation following a service in the Onondaga tradition.[9]

It is somewhat sad to note that, in the city for which he brought much fame, Longboat was to find it "too lonely" at a time when he needed someone to be with him. Did he suffer this all through his life? Was he lonely amid the thousands of fans which packed the buildings in which he ran? It could be that he kept this burden quiet all his life until at a weak moment he voiced it to his wife.

He was elected to the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame in 1955. A record he made in 1912 on Toronto Island for 15 miles during his last important race still stands to this day.[10]

> "He was a better man as an Indian than he was trained as a white man," said Flanagan recently. "I often thought if we could have kept him on the reservation and brought him out just to run, what he could have done would have been even more remarkable."[11]

It will be sometime before an Indian athlete will be of equal stature to Tom Longboat, perhaps never. Sadly, only the people who saw him run can really appreciate his true contributions to the history of sport. Mistahi ke pa maykin, Ekosi. Gog-wa-gee.

A two foot wooden marker over his grave near Brantford, Ontario is the only monument today to a man who once was the best known athlete in the world.[12]

FOOTNOTES

1. The Brantford Courier, Op. Cit., April 4, 1908. The following article appeared: "Long distance running is one of the greatest gains known to man, and we would be pleased to see even more men taking up this great game. We cannot all be a Longboat or a Woods, but we can all get enjoyment from the sport, and at the same time build up our bodies."

2. Hopkins, J. C., The Canadian Annual Review of Public Affairs, (Toronto: The Annual Review Publishing Co. Ltd., 1908), p. 634.

3. Keith Lansley, "The A.A.U. of C. and Changing Concepts of Amateurism". Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Fall 1971. pp. 67, 68, 69, 71, 74, 75, 77.

4. Loc Cit.

5. Cronin, Op, Cit., p. 40.

6. The CFCW Radio Station in their minute Alberta Heritage History report that Tom Longboat had worked in the Lougheed area of Alberta.

7. Cronin, Op. Cit., p. 40.

8. The Globe and Mail, February 10, 1972.

9. Cronin, Op. Cit., p. 40.

10. CFCW Alberta Heritage Stories. Reference on query by telephone; reply: Encyclopedia Canadiana. (Toronto, Crolier of Canada Ltd.) Vol. 6, 1968, p. 199.

11. Cronin, Op. Cit., p. 40.

12. Cronin, Op. Cit., p. 21.

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Joyce Smoke, from Six Nations at Ottawa, 1970.

Lefty Reid, twice at Toronto Sports Hall of Fame.

Longboat Family, June 1970.

Phil Mistaken Chief, January, 1974.

APPENDIX A

TABULATION OF AMATEUR RACES

DATE	RACE	DISTANCE	TIME	RESULT
Oct. 18/06	Herald Road Race (Hamilton), 16 starters - 100 to 1 odds. 42 secs. slower than record.	19 mi. 160.8 yds.	1 hr. 49 min. 25 sec.	1st
Oct. 27/06	John J. Ward Marathon Race (Toronto) 61 runners to beat.	15 miles	1 hr. 31 min.	1st
Dec. 25/06 *record	Christmas Race (Hamilton) 26 starters	10 miles	54.50 broke 57.32 record of '04 by 2.42	1st
Jan. 1/07	Dufferin Park (Exhibition Run) (Toronto)	5 miles	27.23 good weather rec. 24.33	alone
Feb. 9/07	vs. Bonhag (U.S. Champ) 74th Regiment Armory (Buffalo)	3 miles	Bonhag sets new indoor record 14.43-2/5 (old - 14.44-3/5)	2nd
Mar. 29/09 *record	Dovercourt Rd. Harrier's Team Race (Toronto)	2½ miles	12 min. 46 sec. Broke J. Tait's 13.07 record by 21 sec.	1st
Apr. 19/07 *record	Boston Marathon 126 entries	25 miles	2.24:20-4/5 Broke record by 5 min.	1st
May 14/07	Dufferin Track (Toronto) Practice run	3 miles	15.55	alone
June 8/07	West End YMCA Games (Toronto) vs. Nebrick U.S. Champ in match race.	3 miles	15.2½ sec.	1st

DATE	RACE	DISTANCE	TIME	RESULT
July 12/07	Toronto Hamilton	3 miles 10 miles	15.20 51.30	alone
July 29/07 *record	Lansdowne Park Ottawa, Relay against 3 runners: Greene, Tom Coley, Lou Marsh.	5 miles	25.55 Cdn. record 1 min. 1 sec. better than Coley's time.	1st
Aug. 3/07	Toronto Island Championship meet. (broke down J. J. Daley, the Irish champion).		unreported	1st
Sept. 2/07	Buffalo vs. Hadley, Coward, Kearson of Buffalo Relay	3 miles	16.02/5	2nd
Sept. 7/07	Hamilton vs. Marsh of Winnipeg	5 miles	24.49	1st
Sept. 21/07	Toronto vs. Golds- boro	5 miles 19.5-20M	unknown	1st
Oct. 12/07 *record	Wards Marathon (Toronto)	20 miles	1.41.40 World's rec. by 12 mins.	1st
Oct. 18/07 *record	University Games	3 miles	15.09 New Canadian record from 15.33	1st
Oct. 30/07	42 mile Hamilton to Toronto run	36-3/4 miles	5.25.27	alone (did not finish)
Nov. 9/07	King's Birthday Road Race (Mont- real) 75 starters	5 miles	24.55	1st

DATE	RACE	DISTANCE	TIME	RESULT
Feb. 13/08	Park Square Boston vs. relay: Sellen, Pearce and Cummings.	10 miles	official time blurred. Beat Shrubb's rec. by 23 sec.	1st
Apr. 13/08	Toronto	1 mile	unreported	tie
May 2/08	Caledonia vs. James Henry	11 miles	59.10	1st
May 16/08	West Toronto Games Toronto	10 miles	--	pulled out
June 2/08	West Toronto Marathon course training run with Woods and Adams.	15 miles	unreported	unreported
June 6/08	Rosedale	3 miles	unreported	unreported
June 11/08 *record	Montreal vs. 5 man relay.	15 miles	1:24:08 lowered his previous record by 2:47 seconds.	1st
July 13/08	Olympics (London)	Marathon 26 m. 385 yds.		did not finish, collapsed after 19 miles.
Aug. 22/08	Hamilton five mile race	5 miles	unreported	1st
Aug. 30/08 *record	C.A.A.U. championship	5 miles	26 min. 5-3/5 sec.	1st
Oct. 26/08	Montreal Marathon Road Race	5 miles	unreported	1st

DATE	RACE	DISTANCE	TIME	RESULT
1908	Ward Marathon	Marathon		1st
1908	Williamstown Marathon	6 miles	unreported but family have trophy.	1st
1908 (Dec.)	Philadelphia vs. Percy Smallwood (Welsh Camp)	10 miles	unreported time	2nd

APPENDIX B

TABULATION OF PROFESSIONAL RACES

DATE	RACE	DISTANCE	TIME	RESULT
Dec. 15/08	vs. Dorando (New York, Madison Square Gardens)	Marathon 26 m. 385 yds.	2.45.05-2/5	1st
Jan. 4/09	vs. Dorando (Buffalo Armory)	25 miles	3.03.31-2/5	1st
Jan. 25/09	vs. Hallen & Spring relay team. (Essex Troop Armory) Newark, N.J.	10 miles	winning time 58.49	2nd
Jan. 30/09	Exhibition (Washington Convention Hall)	15 miles	1:24:30	1st
Feb. 5/09	vs. Shrubb at N.Y.	26 miles		1st
Apr. 4/09	Marathon Derby Polo Grounds, N.Y.	Marathon 26 mi. 385 yds.		did not finish
May 8/09	NAAA grounds Montreal, vs. Shrubb	15 miles	1 hr. 23 min. 57 sec.	lost
June 28/09 (26th)	Toronto Island Track	20 miles	2 hr. 2 min. 10 sec.	Longboat won
Unknown	Toronto	12 miles	unknown	Shrubb
Unknown	Winnipeg	16 miles	unknown	Shrubb
Unknown	Boston	10 miles	unknown	Shrubb
Unknown	Boston	15 miles	unknown	Shrubb
Unknown	Toronto	12 miles	unknown	Shrubb

DATE	RACE	DISTANCE	TIME	RESULT
Unknown	Pittsburgh	15 miles	unknown	Shrubb
Unknown	Stratford	10 miles	unknown	Shrubb
June 8/12	Toronto Island Track	15 miles (record)	unknown	Longboat
July 17/09	John Svenberg of Sweden beats Longboat in Toronto.	15 miles	1 hr. 23 min. 43 sec.	Svenberg
Unknown	Powder Hall Marathon Edinborough, Scotland.	15 miles (record)	1 hr. 20 min. 4 sec.	Longboat

APPENDIX C

LIST OF MANAGERS OR TRAINERS

1. Bill Davis (Hamilton Road Race)
2. Harry Rosenthal (for Boston Marathon)
3. Willie Sherring requested. (February 12, 1907)
4. Fred Loft (West End YMCA, March 20, 1907).
5. Tom Flanagan (1908 Olympics).
6. Jimmy DeForest (Jan. 26, 1908 for Pat Powers).
7. Bert Maracle (brother-in-law, February 16, 1909).
8. Mike Flanagan (March 19, 1909).
9. Tom Flanagan (March 21, 1909).

APPENDIX D

AMERICAN INDIAN ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

AMERICAN INDIAN HALL OF FAME

The United States has now an Indian Athletic Hall of Fame under the excellent co-ordination of Billy Mills. In a very rare great moment recently the writer had the opportunity to meet Billy Mills, Sioux, the 1964 Olympic 10,000 metre champion.

The American Indians are now recognizing athletes whom they feel have contributed tremendously to the world of sport. Perhaps a similar honor committee ought to be established in Canada. In any case, the writer wishes to submit this thesis to substantiate a nomination of Tom Longboat as a candidate to the above Hall of Fame to join the following inductees:

ALEXANDER ARCASA
Tribe: Colville
Achievements: Named to Walter Camp's All-American Team of 1912
Sport: Football

CHARLES A. "CHIEF" BENDER
Tribe: Chippewa
Achievements: Philadelphia 1908, 1917, played in World Series 1905, 1910, 1911, 1913, 1914.
Sport: Baseball

WILSON D. "BUSTER" CHARLES
Tribe: Oneida
Achievements: Member of the United States Olympic Team 1912.
Sport: Track

ALBERT A. EXENDINE
Tribe: Delaware
Achievements: All-American End 1906, 1907.
Sport: Football

JOSEPH N. GUYON
Tribe: White Earth Chippewa
Achievements: All-American Tackle 1917 and All-American Halfback 1918, National Professional Football Hall of Fame 1966.
Sport: Football

JIMMIE JOHNSON
Tribe: Stockbridge-Munsee
Achievements: Quarterback, Walter Camp's All-American Team 1903.
Sport: Football

JOHN LEVI
Tribe: Arapaho
Achievements: All-American Fullback 1923 and Haskell's Greatest All-Around Athlete
Sport: Football

JOHN "CHIEF" MEYERS
Tribe: Cahiulla Band, California
Achievements: New York Giants 1911, 1912, 1913. Batted .332, .359, .312. Earned the title of Ironman 1911-1913.
Sport: Baseball

ALLIE P. REYNOLDS
Tribe: Cree
Achievements: Professional Athlete of the Year, 1951.
Tied World's Record for World Series
Wins two no hit games, 1951 (first in history of American League). American League All Star Team 1943, 1947, 1951, 1952, 1953, and 1954.
Sport: Baseball

THEODORE "TINY" ROEBUCK
Tribe: Choctaw
Achievements: All American Tackle 1926
Sport: Football

RUEBEN SANDERS
Tribe: Tututni-Rogue River Indian
Achievements: One of the state of Oregon's greatest all-time football players and all-around athlete.
Sport: Football

LOUIS TEWANIMA
Tribe: Hopi
Achievements: Member United States Olympic Team 1908 - Marathon
United States Olympic Team 1912 - 2nd place 10,000 metres.
Sport: Track

JIM THORPE
Tribe: Potawatomi and Sac & Fox
Achievements: All American Halfback 1908, 1911 and 1912.
Olympic Games Gold Medal Winner 1912 Decathelon and Pentathlon. 1950 voted Greatest Athlete of the 1st Half Century. 1963 Pro-Football National Hall of Fame.
Sport: Football and Track and Field

LOUIE WELLER
Tribe: Caddo
Achievements: All American Honourable Mention Team Two Years
Second All American Team by United Press
Sport: Football

ANGELITA ROSAL
Tribe: Sioux
Achievements: Member of the United States Women's Table Tennis Team
Competed in the World Table Tennis Championships 1973
Sport: Table Tennis

GUS WELCH
Tribe: Chippewa
Achievements: Honourable Mention All American Football Team 1913
Sport: Football

JIMMIE WOLF JR.
Tribe: Kiowa
Achievements: Third Team All American Football 1958
Associated Press Little All American Football 1958
Sport: Football

HONOREES

WALLACE L. FINGER
Tribe: Sioux
Recognition: In honor of his participation and contribution to sports while attending Haskell Indian School. He was a member of Haskell 2 mile relay team in 1926 which was among the best in the nation.
Sport: Track

LOUIS BRUCE
Tribe: Mohawk-Sious
Recognition: As Commissioner of Indian Affairs(former) he was co-founder and an avid promoter of the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame.

1973 SECOND AMERICAN INDIAN ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES AND HONOREES

ELMER BUSCH
Tribe: Pomo
Achievements: Second Team All American 1913
Sport: Football

ELLISON BROWN
Tribe: Narragansett
Achievements: Member United States Olympic Team 1936
Sport: Track

ALBERT HAWLEY
Tribe: Gros Ventre & Assineboine
Achievements: Honorable Mention All American Football 1929
Sport: Football

FRANK HUDSON
Tribe: Laguna Pueblo
Achievements: Second Team All American Football 1899
Sport: Football

WALTER JOHNSON
Tribe: Paiute
Achievements: Honorable Mention All American Football 1929
Sport: Football

FRANK MT. PLEASANT
Tribe: Tuscarora
Achievements: Member United States Olympic Team 1908
Second Team All American Football 1905
Sport: Football & Track

BEMUS PIERCE
Tribe: Seneca
Achievements: Honorable Mention All American Football 1894
Sport: Football

ED ROGERS
Tribe: Chippewa
Achievements: Third Team All American Football 1903
Sport: Football

CAB RENICK
Tribe: Choctaw
Achievements: All American Basketball Team 1939
Gold Medal Winner U.S. Olympic Basketball Team 1948
Sport: Basketball

"BILLY MILLS"

OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL WINNER, 10,000 METER - 1964

Billy Mills is an Oglala Sioux Indian and a Native of South Dakota. He was born on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

He was orphaned at an early age. Billy was seven when his mother died and thirteen when his father died.

He was sent to the Indian boarding schools operated by the Federal Government.

Upon graduating from high school he was awarded an Athletic Scholarship to the University of Kansas.

He graduated from the University of Kansas with a B.S. degree in Physical Education in 1962.

In college Billy dedicated himself toward making the 1960 Olympic Team in the 10,000 meter run but met with failure. Armed with renewed determination he began running 110 miles a week in an attempt to make the 1964 team. He made the team but his chances to win were 1,000 to 1. Overcoming the odds, Billy went on to create the greatest upset in Olympic Games History. He was the first American to ever win the Olympic 10,000 meter run.

The President of the International Olympic Committee, Avery Brundage, stated

> I have been watching the Olympic Games for over 50 years and I have never seen an American Athlete respond greater to pressure than Billy Mills did today in winning the Olympic 10,000 meters.

Mr. Mills has travelled to approximately 50 different countries. He was engaged in promotional work during his tour of duty as an officer

with U.S. Marine Corps and later continued his public speaking while pursuing a career as a salesman in the life insurance business. Five years of selling experience in business provided him with valuable expertise to sell ideas and issues.

He currently is consultant to the Native American Economic Development Corporation in Washington, D.C.

He plans to return to an insurance career in the near future. He is married and has three daughters.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

1964 Olympic Gold Medal Winner	10,000 Meter Run
1964 Olympic Team Member	Marathon
1965 American Indoor Record Holder	3 Mile Run
	3,000 Meters
1966 Worlds Record	6 Mile Run

1966 Billy Mills Hall, a gymnasium and Post Office Building in Pine Ridge, South Dakota was named in his honor.

1968 Member of Olympic Games Committee
Member of San Diego Athletic Hall of Fame
Member of South Dakota Athletic Hall of Fame
Member of Kansas Athletic Hall of Fame
California Athlete of the Year Award

1971 Selected by U.S. Jaycees as one of the 10 outstanding young men of America.

1972 Co-ordinator of American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame.

APPENDIX E

CANADIAN INDIAN HALL OF FAME

The Canadian Indian Hall of Fame has two Indian athletes. The following two accounts are from their documented poster of all present members:

GEORGE ARMSTRONG

As far as hockey is concerned, George Armstrong has been everything to everyone. "Army" as he is known, was the first winner of the Charlie Conacher Memorial Trophy, presented to him in 1969 in "recognition of a humanitarian contribution". The trophy was awarded for organizing a floor hockey tournament for retarded children.

Born July 6, 1930, son of an Irish-Scot father and an Ojibway mother, his early years were spent in Skeed, Ontario. There was no organized hockey there, but "Army" became proficient at playing road hockey before beginning regular hitch-hiking trips to Sudbury at age 14 to play on an organized team. He played with the Toronto Marlboros, both Junior and Senior, and when the Senior Marlies won the Allan Cup in 1950, Army was named an honorary Chief of the Stoney Indian Reservation near Banff, Alberta, and given the title "Chief-Shoot-the-Puck". The name may have brought good luck; in 1951 Army began a twenty-one year career with the Toronto Maple Leafs, during which time he scored 296 goals and 476 assists. Twelve of these twenty-one years were spent as captain of the Leafs. During the 1972-73 hockey season Army coached the Toronto Marlboros; they won the Memorial Cup that year.

In addition to all this Armstrong takes time to be Chairman of the Cerebral Palsy Association of Canada.

THOMAS LONGBOAT

An Onondaga of the Six Nations flashed into notice as a runner at the Caledonia Fall Fair in 1906. He followed this by winning the Herald Road Race around Hamilton Bay. The odds against him were forty to one. His running stride of six feet, six inches had appeared too relaxed. But he continued to shatter records in the Ward Marathon and the Boston Marathon and went on to win so many medals and trophies that he gave them away to casual acquaintances.

He rebelled against YMCA training, saying he had never needed to practice before. But he learned to smoke and drink and this brought him suspension.

The Irish Canadian Athletic Club became his sponsor. Longboat fans worried about his rating. Was he amateur or professional? But amateur standing was permitted for the Olympic marathon in 1908 which he lost. Longboat won the Ward Marathon for the third time.

He was acclaimed as the greatest long distance runner of the century. In W.W.1 he was a private in the Sportsmen's Battalion overseas as a battalion runner for two years.

The name Longboat will always be alive in Canada.

His people honored him with a plaque at their Council House. An annual award in his name is given to the outstanding Indian athlete in Canada each year.

APPENDIX F

TOM LONGBOAT TROPHY AND MEDALS

TOM LONGBOAT TROPHY AND MEDALS

Each year since 1951, the Tom Longboat Trophy has been awarded by the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada, courtesy of the Dominion Bridge Company Limited in Montreal, Quebec. Individual medals are also awarded by the Indian Affairs Branch. (The award is now made by the Sports Federation of Canada and the National Indian Brotherhood.)

The annual awards are given in Longboat's honor to outstanding Indian athletes in the various regions of Canada who show the greatest powers of character, leadership and sportsmanship in athletic achievement. The winners from the regions are presented medals struck with the face and shoulders of Tom Longboat on the front and inscribed with the name of the winner on the back. The national winner is presented annually with the trophy which remains at his or her Agency for the year.

The list of Indian athletes who have been recognized with this very great honor as the Most Outstanding Indian Athlete of Canada is as follows:

1951	Frederick Baker	
1952	John Sark	
1953	Edward Kabatay	
1954	Charles Ross Smallface	Blood Reserve
1955	Paul Goulais	
1956	Edward Vernon Campbell	
1957	George Poitras	Qu'Appelle Indian School
1958	Randy Ayoungman	Blackfoot Reserve
1959	Walter Noel	Oak River
1960	Art Obey	Piapot Reserve
1961	Bruce Bruyere	Rainy Lake
1962	Tom Watt Jr.	Alberni Reserve
1963	John Lewis	Belle Belle, Ontario

1964	Gaylord Powless	Upper Mohawk (Six Nations)
1965	George H. Brown	Skide Gate Mission
1966	Ranson Jamieson	Upper Cayuga (Six Nations)
1967	Wilton Littlechild	Edmonton - Hobbema
1968	Phyllis Bomberry	Lower Cayuga (Six Nations)
1969	Bert Mistaken Chief	St. Mary's School (Bloods)
1970	Kenneth J. Montour	Delaware (Six Nations)
1971	Douglas Skead	Kenora (Rat Portage)
1972	Howard S. Anderson	Punichy (Gordon's Band)
1973	Raymond Rousselot	Bersimis Reserve
1974	Wilton Littlechild	Edmonton - Hobbema

Winners list was obtained via telephone in March 1974 from Mrs. Florett Burt, Sports Federation of Canada, Ottawa.